

Shopping and dining in streets fit for an emperor.

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Black and white photographs bring back "old Peking" of 70 years ago.

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Works of art adorn his customer's bodies.

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School for Crisis

Mature students learn life skills



Chen Enxian, Gou Chunhua, Wang Shufen and students of Huang Zhuang Primary School (Wei Xin declined to be photographed)

Photos by Bai Zi

Expo Prepares for Entry

By Xiao Rong

Sixty-eight foreign governmental or enterprise delegations from over 50 countries and regions have registered to attend the fifth China Beijing International High-Tech Industries Expo.

The largest of its kind, the expo will be held between May 23 and 28. Foreign politicians, scientists and economists, entrepreneurs of the *Fortune's* Global 500 will gather to exchange ideas on China's strategic development after WTO entry and Olympic bid success.

Local governmental trade delegations around China will also take an active part, especially western provinces. The largest delegation with more than 600 members is from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, said Chen Gang, chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade at Monday's press conference.

Chen revealed a western capital city is planning to sign contracts with Beijing to establish a long-term strategic partnership with the capital, the first such endeavor in the history of the expo.

With the theme of "WTO, Olympics, Innovation and Development", the expo will focus on promoting high-tech application and exchanges in the form of exhibitions, professional forums or seminars, trade negotiations, special exchange activities and online interactive activities.

WTO topics are the highlights of the expo, with one-third of the forums targeting practical strategy for Chinese government and industries.

As the first high-tech expo since the successful Olympic bid, the commercial opportunities and challenges arising from the 2008 Olympics are another hotspot.

A special 2008 Olympics event promoting construction projects will debut at the expo. The Beijing 2008 Olympics Organizing Committee will make a thorough introduction of the Beijing Olympic Action Plan and the bidding plan for Olympic construction projects. More than 100 global construction companies and investment organizations have shown interest in the event.

(See Page 4 *Stage Set for Fifth CBHT*)

By Sun Ming

They dropped out of primary school more than 20 years ago. But now they have returned to study alongside pupils young enough to be their own children.

Gou Chunhua, 34, enrolled at Huang Zhuang Primary School last month as a first grade student and her friend, 32-year-old Wei Xin (pseudonym), joined grade four.

Classroom daydreams

"It's been a long wait for me," says Gou. "Over the last 23 years, I often dreamed I was in a classroom. Then when I woke up, I realized it was all just a dream. I couldn't help but always weep."

Gou, a plain-dressed, jobless migrant worker living in Beijing, quit study at grade two of primary school — about 8 years old — when her uncle ordered her to take care of his baby.

"He even threatened to kill me if I refused. My parents also had to yield to the pressure," says Gou. Tears fog her dark eyes.

Gou in 1988 left for Beijing with fellow villagers from her hometown, a mountain village of Sichuan Province.

Under the guidance of her fellow villagers, Gou made chocolate in a food products factory, washed dishes in a restaurant and worked as a waitress of a small hotel.

"I made a living by simple unskilled labor. But I had to give up later jobs because I still felt unconfident of my ability," says Gou.

Gou says in 1989 because of her diligence, she was authorized to manage a machine producing chocolate in the factory. She refused.

"Others would laugh at me if they found out that I couldn't read the specifications. I'd rather be an ordinary worker."

In 1991, Gou became the waitress of a small hotel. At first, she proved competent enough for the work, but later, her boss asked her to register customers' names. Gou quit. She was working

at a bathhouse as a ticket taker when she became unemployed again after it closed down in 1998. The wages of her husband Wang Ruyou, a taxi driver, now support Gou and their 4-year-old son Wang Hao.

"In Beijing, I met lots of warm-hearted people. They helped me to find jobs. But I'm an illiterate person. What's a woman to do?" says Guo.

Rebel returns

Unlike Gou, the fashionably-attired Wei Xin abandoned study of her own accord.

"I hadn't realized the importance of knowledge," Wei tells *Beijing Today* in a Henan accent softened by 12 years in the capital city. "My mother beat me several times because I often played truant."

"Look, see here — there's still a mark left on my eyebrow. But I was so stubborn that my mother had to surrender at last."

As she talks about quitting at grade four, Wei also begins to weep.

Wei says she realized the importance of knowledge only after coming to Beijing in 1989.

"For example, I wanted to tell my family what I'd seen and heard in the city, but it was difficult for me to write a letter."

Wei has worked as a saleswoman at seven clothes shops in succession. All her jobs were unstable, Wei says.

To get her current job, she told her boss she graduated from high school. She feels certain she would lose her job if he knew she was illiterate.

"That's why I refuse you to publish my name or take any pictures. I really treasure my job."

Wei once took part in primary courses for English and computing, but she had to drop out. But through all the indignities, one moment sticks

in her throat. Her 7-year-old son asked her questions from school.

"I want to give him some guidance in study, but I haven't the ability," she says. She wipes her brow.

Sense of crisis

Common experience and shared difficulties brought Gou and Wei together in 1996.

"We both have the same sense of crisis. We both worried about our future," says Wei.

"We have no insurance, no pension. How about the future? It's difficult for us to move a single step in society. Can we always depend on our husbands? Our families are not rich," says Gou.

Both of the two women's husbands are taxi drivers.

Gou and Wei tell *Beijing Today* they want to hone a professional skill for the future, but they know they first must

'Do you want to make headline news? You are adults. How can you study together with children?'



'Over the last 23 years, I often dreamed I was in a classroom'

acquire primary knowledge.

In March this year, the two women began to contact private schools. "We didn't think public schools would receive us," says Wei. Hua Mao School immediately refused.

"The principal, a Ms. Xu, said 'Do you want to make headline news? You are adults. How can you study together with children?' We begged her several times, but it was no use."

Then on March 28, they went to Huang Zhuang Primary School, a private school in Shijingshan District. The principal, Chen Xian'en, said he would need to think about it.

"Frankly, I hesitated," Chen tells *Beijing Today*. "Because I haven't come across such a thing before. Many teachers were reluctant to receive them."

"But I was impressed by their yearning. I persuaded the teachers into receiving them at last."

Chen says most teachers thought it would be awkward to teach adults and children together.

Back to school

On the morning of April 8, guided by Chen, Gou and Wei entered their respective classrooms.

Classmates welcomed them with a standing ovation.

On the second day, Gou moved to grade one because she couldn't keep up with grade three.

"I decided to start from zero. My classmates are very kind to me. They call me 'teacher' or 'auntie'," says Gou.

Gou says she is lucky with her teacher, 60-year-old Wang Shufen, who often teaches her Chinese after class in her office.

Wei goes to the school twice a week as she still has to hold down a job, while Gou attends school every day. They study Chinese and arithmetic only. They told *Beijing Today* they intend to study English next semester.

Chen had refused to accept tuition payments, they said.

"Their spirit deserves commendation," says Chen, refusing further explanation.

Illiterates in city

"I hope society might pay more attention to people like Gou and Wei," Chen tells *Beijing Today* in his small home located by the school yard. There are two dusty sofas and an old desk in the 7-square-meter living room.

Chen, 42, from Henan, says he knows very well the suffering of this section of society. That's why he and his wife Wan Sumei came to the capital city to set up the Huang Zhuang Primary School in 1998. He had previously been a history teacher of a high school in his hometown.

The school especially receives poor children from outside Beijing. Their parents make a living in Beijing by selling agricultural products or collecting scrap.

"They are the weak section of society. Their children usually can't afford the tuition of public primary schools. Do you know why? They have to pay additional fees as they are not permanent residents of the city."

Chen says the number of illiterate people in Beijing is large and most come from out of town. To make a living or educate their children, they want to learn some primary knowledge.

But it is hard to find channels to realize this desire. Few schools will receive them.

"Actually, it isn't a good way for Gou and Wei to study together with children," says Chen. "They have higher comprehension ability than children."

"And they have different knowledge demands. Only Chinese and arithmetic are necessary for them."

"I plan to set up a class especially for this group of people in my school. The class can be opened on Sunday or evenings when they are free. Thus they could learn what they need most in a shorter time."

"You know," says Chen, reading from notes he had especially prepared for the interview. "There were classes to eliminate illiteracy in the villages of China 10 years ago. Why not we move the classes from villages to Beijing?"

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New Programs Take Hands-on Approach to WTO Training

By Xiao Rong

A training program for WTO-related professionals intended to foster the development of skilled personnel familiar with both WTO rules and international business management will kick off on May 28 in Beijing.

This program and the idea of establishing a training base for WTO-related professionals in the capital are signs of the boom in the market for WTO-related training following the country's WTO entry last December.

"Although some WTO-related training courses have been available during the process of China's WTO entry, they have certain drawbacks," said Zhang Jianping, vice president of the International Industrial and Commercial Management College of the University of International Business and Economics, one of the initiators of this training program.

"Most earlier WTO-related training programs lacked pertinence, looking only at how the government should respond instead of instructing enterprises on handling WTO-related issues," Zhang told *Beijing Today*.

In contrast, this new program will combine the international business management abilities of multinational companies with case studies, aiming at making senior managers of local enterprises familiar with basic WTO rules and international law and economics.

Besides this program, some other short-term training projects for WTO-related professionals are underway. The Monterey Institute of International Studies, one of the leading institutions in the US for graduate study in WTO-related fields, held discussions Monday and Tuesday with local government organizations, WTO research institutions and universities about possible cooperation.

"The discussions have proved fruitful. We are here to learn the special needs of local governmental organizations, the private sector and educational institutions so that we can satisfy their needs," said Monterey Institute President Chester D. Haskell.

Mr. Haskell is especially satisfied with the rough plan he has reached with the Beijing WTO Affairs Research & Consultation Center on a possible program for providing expertise on WTO-related issues later this year.

"To celebrate the one year anniversary of China's WTO accession, we will launch a short-term WTO training program as well as a seminar on WTO-related affairs this December. Details of the events have yet to be decided," said Ms. Cheng Dawei, consultant at the Beijing WTO center, one of China's two government-based WTO research centers.

When asked about the current situation of China's market for the training of WTO-related professionals, Haskell said that it would be a long time before there was an adequate number of experienced specialists in WTO-related trade in China.

"Some people only need a very broad understanding of WTO-related issues, while others need to do extensive research, so the right educational opportunities have to be found to meet these different needs," said Haskell. He added, "The Monterey Institute aims to focus not on the theory of trade related issues but on practice in negotiating and communicating on issues."

Haskell is encouraged by the many governmental organizations and research bodies in China that are trying to develop these kinds of educational programs, which will mean there will be many options.

"China has just come into the WTO — there is still a long way ahead. Competition in the training of WTO-related professionals, which is still a growing field, is a good thing," said Haskell.

Private Druggists Coming to Every Corner

By Shan Jinliang

After 11 hours of closely-supervised computer work, Beijing Drug Administration (BDA) staff completed a final count of the number of accepted valid applications to open pharmacies in the city at 8:30 pm on Monday.

Of the 751 applications collected May 9-10, 602 were identified as valid in the first phase of the bidding for the 100 new pharmacies to be opened in the bidding.

One hour after the final count was completed, the BDA posted a notice on its website (www.bjda.gov.cn), that said people whose bids were rejected can file petitions to the market supervision department of the BDA before May 16, but few such petitions have been filed.

From May 14 to 23, officials from the local drug administrations of 18 districts and counties began to check the conditions of the 602 accepted applications to determine whether they were good enough to go through the following examination and approval procedures conducted by the city's industrial and commercial administration. The bidding for

new pharmacies will be opened to the public on May 31.

The 602 winners in the first round of bidding are made up of both individuals and drug chain stores. The chains' ambition is to open a large number of pharmacies. The Tong Re Tang Chain wants to open 41 new stores, Cachet Pharmaceutical 41 stores and the Xicheng Golden Elephant Chain Store 32 stores.

Cheng pointed out the administration has not widely opened the market and only approved a few pharmacies since 1997, at the same time that many residential areas have been built in the city.

Aside from local business people, around 20 individuals and organizations from other cities and provinces joined the bidding on May 9 and 10. "Open bidding can ensure there are equal opportunities in the competition," said Pang Tiandong, a legal representative of a Shanxi Province-based chain drug store.

"We set no restrictions on ownership of these pharmacies," said Fang Yinglai, deputy director of the BDA, "and we firmly reject regional protectionism."

The opening of new pharmacies is aimed at improving the distribution of pharmacies in the city and giving citizens more convenient access to medicine. Fang said that drawing from the experiences of developed countries in arranging pharmacies according to population, one drug store is enough to serve the needs of a 350-meter circular area, except in major commercial areas. To prevent the arbitrary opening of new pharmacies, the administration gives advantages to chain pharmacies with good management methods and supply channels, Fang added.

"We will put all pharmacies under the same supervising system to ensure drug security. Surveys conducted last year showed 97% of the drugs on the Beijing market were safe," Fang told *Beijing Today*.

"The former administrative examination and approval system has been changed to the method of open bidding," said Fang. He added, "we hope this open bidding system, the first of its kind in China, will become a nationwide system if it proves successful."

New Oriental Eyes IT Education Market

By Xiao Rong

The New Oriental School, China's leading private school in the English language training field, is introducing a new two-year international computer programmer training project in Beijing.

The project, which will begin this September, will be run jointly by the New Oriental School and Canada's Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Algonquin College President Robert Gillett predicted the college to earn \$750,000 in revenues from the project in its first year, and expects that figure to grow to \$2 million annually within five years.

Regarding New Oriental's profits, Zhou Huaijun, the school's IT Education manager, said the specific figure is still unclear. He added that the project is aimed at producing qualified programmers with both excellent computer skills and fluent English, capable of keeping up with the latest international trends.

Yu Minhong, CEO of New Oriental Education Group, showed confidence about the school's entry into the professional IT training market. "I am not worried about getting enough students for the computer course," he said, "I'm worried about having enough classrooms."

New Oriental has focused on the huge IT professional training market in Beijing since 1999. The school already dominates the English language education market in seven domestic cities, and trains 300,000 students annually.



Morris Uremovich, head of Algonquin's Computer Programmer program, Robert Gillett, Yu Minghong, Zhou Huaijun

"Computer language is another global universal language besides English, and both are very useful skills," said Yu. "Our goal is to cultivate truly professional Chinese computer programmers by introducing authoritative IT training programs. Algonquin Colleges is the first international educational institution with which New Oriental has sought to cooperate."

Algonquin College will provide professors and English language teaching materials for the project. Certificates from this training program, which Algonquin College has been offering for 20 years in Canada, are widely acknowledged among both academic and industrial organizations in North America.



Skilled Artists Inspire City

The Chinese Disabled Artists Troupe lit up the stage at the Centennial Theatre Monday with their dance and music program "My Dream".

Since its inauguration 15 years ago, the troupe has staged several hundred performances, visited over 30 foreign countries and regions, and always been praised as an "envoy of beauty and friendship".

Foreign children accompany singer Gan Rongli in the evening's theme song "My Dream". (Above)

24-year-old conductor Hu Yizhou, conquered the crowd with his enthusiasm and talent. (Left)

Xinhua Photos



Red-Eyes Grounded

By Xiao Rong

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) issued a ban on all domestic red-eye flights during an emergency meeting on safety in China's aviation industry held Saturday.

In China, red-eye flights refer to specially chartered night-time flights arranged by travel agencies for tourists at greatly reduced fares. The operation of red-eye flights can be profitable for airlines, but normally also means a plane's crew and airport staff must work overtime or extra shifts.

During peak travel times and major holidays, red-eye flights had become widely used by airline companies and travel agencies, accounting for almost 70% of the flights offered through some travel agents.

CAAC officials said that red eye flights are not encouraged because air crews on such flights and air-traffic controllers need to work through the night or work extra shifts, making them tired and increasing safety risks.

Most domestic travel agencies fear the ban on red-eye flights may lead to higher prices for in-country tours. Zhang Leide, manager of the Jinan branch of the Chunqiu Travel Agency, predicted that the quoted price of some travel routes may increase 30%, but the influence on the commercial tourism market may not be very strong.

"The ban will not have a major immediate impact on travel agencies, as another low season is coming after the May day holiday," commented Wu Bennan, vice manager of the Domestic Tourism Center of the China Youth Travel Agency of Shanghai.

Some major travel agencies in Guangzhou believe that red-eye flights are usually preferred by new travel agencies that rely on low prices to attract clients, meaning they will feel the strongest effects from the ban.

Although travel agencies have yet to feel a real bite from the red-eye ban, industry insiders hope the ban will be lifted before the next peak travel time, so that tourists will be able to enjoy lower fares for air travel.

World Cup Lottery Opens Tomorrow

By Xiao Rong

World Cup soccer fans will have a chance to use their knowledge and foresight to win cash prizes in the World Cup Lottery set to kick off nationwide tomorrow.

Tickets cost 2 yuan each and will be available at designated sites, including local convenience stores.

The lottery will be made up of three legs. The first is guessing the top 8 winning teams, without ranking, which will be held from today to May 28. The results of the competition will be announced on June 19.

The second contest, predicting the top four teams in the

World Cup and their final rankings, will run from May 31 to June 5. The lucky winner will be named on July 1.

The third leg of the competition, held from May 31 to June 11, will be broken into three rounds, during each of which entrants can guess the outcomes of 13 designated matches. The results will be announced on June 15.

The Ministry of Finance has approved a total of 20 million yuan for prizes for the first two legs of the World Cup lottery, which will be overseen by the China Sports Lottery Administration of the State Sports General Administration.

Dutch Insurer Aegon, CNOOC Team Up

By Zhao Hongyi

The Dutch insurer Aegon NV will establish a joint venture with China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) to start selling life insurance in China next year.

Aegon will be the third foreign insurance company to cooperate with a domestic company not directly involved in the insurance business to explore China's opening market.

CNOOC and Aegon will each

hold 50 percent stakes in the joint venture, Aegon executives told reporters at the ceremony for the signing of the agreement between the two companies in Beijing.

The venture will be based in China's largest city, Shanghai, with an initial capital investment of 200 million yuan (US\$24 million).

Life insurance premiums in China totalled US\$17 billion in 2001, up 43 percent from the previous year.

Major TV Event Closes

By Shan Jinliang

The 10th Beijing International TV Week, which opened on March 29, came to a close last Sunday.

The activity, one of the largest TV program trading festival and exchange events ever held in China, attracted more than 4,000 participants from around 20 countries and regions of the

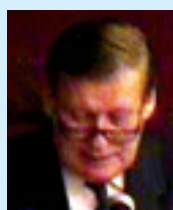
world. Nearly 13,000 series and collections of foreign and domestic TV programs were displayed, and 11,000 hours of programming were traded during the week with a total contractual sum of 165 million yuan. Two hundred and eight hours of programs, worth 2 million yuan, were bought by overseas TV companies.

Top Finnish Judge Visits Capital

By Jian Rong

Pekka Hallberg, President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland, held a news conference in Beijing last Friday to introduce his new book "Rule of Law". Halberg and Dr. Paivi Pietarinen co-wrote the book with the intention

of promoting international discussion on how to carry out the principle of "rule of law". The publication of the Chinese version of the book is being sponsored and supported by the National Development and Research Foundation of Finland.



Agreement Reached on DVD Patent Fees

By Wang Dandan

China Audiovisual Association, representing over 30 Chinese manufacturers of digital video disc players, has reached an agreement with 6C (Hitachi, Panasonic, Mitsubishi, Times-Warner, Toshiba and JVC) DVD Patent Alliance on patent fees.

During an interview with China Audiovisual Association, spokesperson Tang Yuanxiang, told *Beijing Today* that the agreement does not include how much a manufacture should pay to 6C for patent fees.

Asked if this means that the agreement was reached between the Association and 6C, but the specific amount for patent fees should be negotiated between individual manufacturers and 6C, Tang agreed, saying that domestic manufacturers had already started signing the contract with 6C.

At present, 6C only charge fees on exported DVD players, and won't consider charging for domestically sold DVD players until the end of this year, said Tang.

The agreement is only a general document, he added, with many details needing further negotiation with 6C.

Digital Imaging Competition

By Chen Ying

The Canon Digital Creators Contest 2002 is open for entries until September 3, 2002.

The contest, inaugurated in 2000, is open to everyone involved in developing images for the digital and Internet age.

Internationally renowned professionals will judge submissions in categories including digital photography, graphics and illustration, digital movies, and the Web. Work will be judged for creativity, novelty, power of expression, and message.

This year's contest, the third, has an expanded international scope, with new collection points located in Tokyo, New York, Amsterdam, Hong Kong and Sydney.

Rosenbluth & China Comfort Set up JV

Rosenbluth International, one B2B travel company, and China Comfort, a top travel agency, announced Thursday that their joint venture is now open for business.

The new company, Rosenbluth-Comfort Business Travel Service Company, will tap the booming business travel market and explore new business opportunities in China.

"Rosenbluth-Comfort will provide specially tailored services to our clients in China by integrating resources and lowering costs. The combination of Rosenbluth's worldwide presence in more than 50 countries and China Comfort's national network will ensure the ongoing support for this new venture," said Hal Rosenbluth, chairman and chief executive officer of Rosenbluth International. (Xinhua)

Toyota to Produce Land Cruiser Prado in China

Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. is considering producing the Land Cruiser Prado, an advanced sports vehicle model, in China, Kyodo News reported Thursday.

Toyota may assemble the four-wheel-drive sports car at its factory in southwest China's Sichuan Province possibly in 2004, Kyodo said.

Toyota's move is a result of the huge success of its higher-grade Land Cruiser model in China.

Stimulated by China's booming vehicle market, the largest Japanese automaker has already decided to start producing small passenger cars based on the Vitz model in north China's port city Tianjin this autumn, Kyodo added. (Xinhua)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Price of the New HP Way

By Zhao Yijiang

The merger between Hewlett-Packard and Compaq Computer became official on May 7th. The US computer and printer maker completed its \$18.7 billion acquisition, the largest in the history of the technology industry. The new team of HP in China held a press conference two days later. Surprisingly, all the managers of the four divisions, including the president of HP China, are former HP staff. No former Compaq managers were included in the upper-level executive team.

"It is just a coincidence," stated Cheng-Yaw Sun, president of HP China. "It is well known that the process of framing the structure and selecting the manager is transparent and open. We decide what kind of structure and specialists are needed in advance, then we choose the most excellent and fit manager (from both HP and Compaq). In other regions, you would see more people from Compaq in the management team."

There are as yet no details about their job assignments within the new company. The combined companies, which will operate under the HP nameplate, will re-organize into four divisions including Enterprise Systems Group, HP Services, Imaging and Printing, and the Personal Systems Group and aims to re-brand some of its products. HP expects to cut no more than 15,000 jobs from its 150,000 staff worldwide over the next two years, with many of those positions to go through attrition and voluntary severance programs. The plan could save more than the \$2.5 billion promised in cost-cutting measures.

"Those are the best cases that I've seen so far in terms of cost savings," Chief Financial Officer Bob Wayman said. "We believe there is an opportunity to capture more than the \$2.5 billion in savings." The cost-cutting philosophy was central to the argument Compaq's Capellas and HP's Fiorina made in September, when they announced plans for the merger.

It seems that the restructuring will be fiercer in China than elsewhere. The business lines of HP and Compaq largely overlap. Servers, desktops and notebooks are all their major business. "HP will axe more than 30% of its employees in China. Even more from Compaq will be cut," an IT observer predicted. The new HP recently opened the first meeting of all its employees since the acquisition.

Only about 100 former Compaq staff attended the meeting, compared to 1,000 from HP.

Redundancies are only one aspect. Since the launch of the new HP, an atmosphere of uncertainty has surrounded all employees. The insecurity spread even more quickly after Yu Xinchang, former president of Compaq in the greater China region, resigned.

Another worry for HP is its customers. If customers feel uncertain about service and turn to its competitors, it could have a disastrous impact. If sales volume goes down, staff confidence will be hit again.

HP seems to be facing the challenges positively. Each employee in China received a letter signed jointly by Capellas and Fiorina the day the merger took effect. The subject was: "Welcome to the new HP!" When asked about arrangements for employees to be axed, especially former Compaq employees, Cheng-Yaw Sun answered, "Cutting employment is inevitable for our re-organization. Details about job cuts in the Chinese market are not available now. But we will handle this in line with related laws and regulations and give them the best treatment."

As for the customers, "We have never underestimated the difficulties brought by the merger of the two companies. We have already settled on a complete plan to consolidate the systems and processes. All of us will work together to ensure the daily communication with our customers during the merging period and the future. Our target is to make the acquisition affect our customers' work very little," Sun said.

The new HP is the world's top provider of consumer technologies, the top seller of computers and printers, as well as the third-largest technology services outfit, behind IBM and Electronic Data Systems. But the key to its success is not the scale but the conformity. "They've done everything they can to stack the deck in favor of a successful merger," an analyst said.

"Clearly, we are focused on building one strong new company, one strong new team, one strong new culture, and teamwork will be a very important aspect of our success," said Carly Fiorina. JP Morgan on Thursday raised its rating for HP to "buy" from "market performer," citing confidence in the company's ability to transform itself.



Details about staff cuts "not available now" stated Cheng-Yaw Sun, president of HP China

Photo Provided by IT Dept.

MasterCard Campaigns for Cardless Future

By Yang Xiao

Wednesday morning Beijing, Friday morning back to Singapore; Shuan Ghuaidan sees a lot of the Asia Pacific region these days. As vice president of MasterCard International's Advanced Payment Systems, his main task is to promote the company's idea for future payment methods.

Though many analysts have criticized the scheme as a mission impossible, saying too many different companies would need to cooperate for the idea to get off the ground, Ghuaidan is still an enthusiastic evangelist. He lost no opportunity to win converts during the two days in Beijing, taking part in forums and delivering presentations and negotiating with telecom operators and financial institutions.

The wave of the future is wireless

So what is the idea all about? The wave of the future is wireless, according to MasterCard, and the company wants to take part in the wave of mobile commerce. According to the company profile, mobile commerce will allow consumers to securely conduct financial transactions using a variety of wireless devices.

As an international payment services franchise, MasterCard would do away with its most identifiable characteristic, the little plastic card, in favor of a virtual number. "One customer will have a single account number for all types of payments," said Ghuaidan.

Beijing Today: This time you come here to promote the advanced payment system. Why do you think the mobile phone method is a better way?

Shuan Ghuaidan: In the Asia Pacific region, there are 400 million mobile phone users, surpassing both Europe and North America's 200 million each. In



Shuan Ghuaidan

2003 one billion mobile phones will be in use, 60% of them wireless Internet capable. The technology is not the barrier. We have invested 100 million dollars on research and development. And we have set experiments in France, Philippines and Singapore to testify secure payment means. We would choose chip based payment applications or server side wallet payment applications to implementing our mobile payment idea. Mobile commerce promises to deliver electronic commerce capabilities directly into consumers' hands - anytime, anywhere - utilizing wireless technology. Mobile commerce, or M-commerce, is the term applied to online financial transactions - shopping or the electronic transfer of funds - using a mobile device.

Ghuaidan did not try to dodge the suggestion that idea needs time to mature. It is not certain that consumers will take to the idea for shopping, let alone payment. And there is limited merchant enthusiasm so far.

Coordination with rivals

MasterCard and Visa are locked in a bitter competition internationally. Last September Visa announced it had 21,000 member financial institutions and 1 billion cards in use. At the same time MasterCard revealed there were 1 billion MasterCard cards in use. For the World Cup this year MasterCard won global sponsorship, while Visa has secured sponsorship for the Beijing Olympic Games.

But for M-commerce the two rivals have joined hands. Last November, MasterCard, Visa, Amex and JCB founded the Mobile Payment Forum. While it is a public non-profit organization, MasterCard and Visa are co-presidents and set strategic direction: Consisting of Strategic Members (MasterCard, Visa, Amex and JCB) and up to eight principal members (Motorola, Nokia, NTTDoCoMo, Vodafone, Oracle).

Beijing Today: What is the nature of the relationships with rivals in MPF?

Shuan Ghuaidan: We have to continue looking for better payment systems. If we do not, we would be left behind by our rivals. MPF has a single, specific objective - to develop methods for standardized, secure and authenticated mobile payments, using payment card accounts. That is a win-win strategy to everyone involved. Multiple approaches to m-commerce are no longer adequate, resulting in market fragmentation, higher costs, lower penetration, a global approach is needed to expand the market. So we have worked together to create standards for global interoperability.

Strategy in China

Since 1987 when MasterCard became the first payment card issued in China, it has kept strengthening cooperation with

local financial institutions and companies. Sixteen local banks have become its members.

On March 14, the company named Shanghai as its annual meeting site. At the meeting Feng Wei-quan, Greater China general manager of MasterCard International revealed that China has become the fastest developing country in the payment area.

It may be that China has found the payment service an attractive cake. The People's Bank of China united all local banks to launch Inter-bank Card early this year to compete with multinational rivals.

Beijing Today: Does the new card service really influence MasterCard and Visa? And how about your strategy to enter the Chinese market with the new payment system?

Shuan Ghuaidan: There are 10 million Chinese people traveling around the world every year, and another 10 million overseas visitors travel to China.

They probably use our service rather than the Inter-bank Card because we have an international franchise, while Inter-bank Card has a national one. We will take Inter-bank Card as a competition and we will share the cake with it. We think China's payment methods have fallen behind neighboring countries.

My visit this time is to persuade and convince telecom operators and financial institutions to implement our technological experiment in 12 months.

The first step is convincing relevant governments and companies to accept Smart-Card, a parallel payment form that has already been popularized in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Then because China has over 140 million mobile phone users, we would promote chip based mobile payment as the second step.



Stage Set for Fifth CBHT

CHINA BEIJING INTERNATIONAL HI-TECH EXPO

The Curtain Rises for the “China Beijing International Hi-Tech Week”

The 5th China Beijing International Hi-tech Expo (China Beijing International Hi-tech Week) will be held May 23-28, 2002, in Beijing. Under the full support of the central government, the annual event has become an important platform for promoting cooperation and exchange among hi-tech industries since it was first held in 1998.

The program of the 5th “Hi-tech Expo” consists of five types of events: exhibitions, forums, trade talks, topical international seminars and online activities. Over 100 meetings on technical and trade cooperation will be held to facilitate the exchange of new ideas and successful experiences.

Time: May 23-28, 2002
Venue: Beijing, China
Organizing Committee: China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Beijing Branch
Address: A1, North Street, Youth Lake, Andingmen Wai, Dongcheng, Beijing, China 100011
Customer Service Hotline: 010-6426 7330
Ticket Booking Hotline: 8284 1137, 8284 3202
On-line Ticket Booking: www.vtickets.com.cn, www.piao.com, www.eguo.com, www.eastfair.com

Tickets can also be booked at the phone numbers listed under each fair, exhibition, trade talk, or purchased at event entrances.

Tickets also available at: Eastern Gate of Zhongshan Park, Beijing Concert Hall, Golden Sail Concert Hall, Century Hall in Peking University, Beijing Guiyou Store, Sunlight Store, Sci-tech Shopping Center, Chang'an Store, Beijing Chengxiang Huamao Mall, OneWorld Store, Sogo, Hualian Department Store, Landao, Sanli Store, Modern Plaza, NorthStar Shopping Center, Lufthansa Friendship Store.

Exhibitions

CHINA BEIJING INTERNATIONAL HI-TECH EXPO

Time: May 23-28, Tel: 8284 1137
Venue: China International Exhibition Center

Introduction Fair for Prestigious Overseas Universities/Colleges 2002

Time: May 24-26, Tel: 6568 5656

International Exhibition on Hi-tech for the Modern Mass Media

Time: May 22-25, Tel: 6567 5524

China International Financial Commodities Exhibition

Time: May 28-31, Tel: 6265 2897

Hi-Tech Industry Recruitment Fair

Time: May 25-26, Tel: 6425 2331

Building Materials & Technologies Exhibition

Time: May 23-27, Tel: 6512 8587, 6512 8558

Modern Agricultural Science, Technology and Product Exhibition

Time: May 23-28, Tel: 8820 7660

Beijing Development Area (BDA) Achievements Exhibition (Free Entry)

Time: May 22-28, Tel: 6788 1236, 13641108071

Exhibition on Beijing Education Week

Time: May 23-26, Tel: 6512 8587, 6512 8568

Trade Talks

Venue: Chinese Military Museum

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games & Related Construction Projects Briefing

Time: May 27-28, Tel: 6426 4199, 6425 0423

Auction of Medical Hi-tech Research Results

Time: Afternoon, May 27,

Venue: Yu Yang Hotel

Pre-auction Exhibition: Pharmaceutical and Health Care Science & Technology Development Center, Ministry of Health, No. 38, Xueyuan Road, Haidian, Beijing

Tel: 6209 2293/2292, 13801116946

E-mail: xixiaohong@sohu.com

Trade Talks on Governmental Procurement Projects

Time: May 26, Tel: 8354 2456, 6425 0423, 6422 7788-203

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

Trade Fair of Outmoded Enterprise Transformation & Hi-tech Dissemination

Time: May 23-24, Tel: 6848 2770, 6848 7718

Venue: Wanshang Garden Hotel

Trade Talks on the Industrialization of Chinese Agriculture & Hi-tech Projects of Township Enterprises

Time: May 23-24, Tel: 8351 6600, 8351 1897

Venue: Beijing 21st Century Hotel

Investment & Trade Talks

Time: May 23-25, Tel: 6439 2198, 6439 1277, 6439 2197, 6439 1267

Venue: Great Hall of the People/Beijing International Convention Center

Trade Talks on International Investment Projects

Time: May 22-25, Tel: 6831 5023

Venue: Friendship Hotel

Briefing on Medical Hi-tech Projects

Time: 9:00am-11:30am, morning, May 23

Tel: 6209 2293, 6209 2292, 13801116946

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

Trade Talks on Hi-tech Investment Projects for Overseas Chinese Scholars

Time: May 22-23, Tel: 6851 7571, 6851 7573

Venue: Capital Hotel

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) Day

Time: May 27-28, Tel: 6405 8636, 6406 5056

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

Forums

Forum on the WTO & China's Economy in the 21st Century

Time: May 23-25, Tel: 8263 0312, 6211 2169

Venue: Great Hall of the People/ China World Hotel

-The WTO & China's Economy in the 21st Century

Mike Moore, Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)

Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC)

John Pepper, Chairman, Procter & Gamble

Richard Li Tzar-kai, Chairman and CEO, PCCW

-Round-table Meeting on Listing in Overseas Stock Exchanges

Harry Huang, President of NASDAQ China

Li Shan, President of Bank Of China International

-The WTO and the Development of Hi-tech Industries

-The WTO and the Development of China's IT Industry

Wu Jichuan, Minister of Information Industry

Kurt Hellstrom, CEO of Ericsson (TBC)

Geoffrey Ball, President of Alstom China Ltd.

-WTO and the Development of China's Media Industry

Wang Yan, President, Sina.com

Yu Gan, President, Xinhua Online

Liu Changle, Chairman, Phoenix TV

-Listing in the Singapore Stock Exchange

Thomas A. Kloet, CEO of Singapore Exchange Ltd.

Tan Jeh Wuan, Managing Director for equity capital markets of development, Bank of Singapore

-The WTO and the Development of China's Regional Economy

Li Zibin, Vice Director, State Development Planning Commission

Li Yizhong, Chairman, Sinopec

2. Forum on the WTO & the Capital Market

Time: May 23-24, Tel: 8581 8164

Venue: Kerry Center

Yi Changneng, Deputy Director, Institutes Supervising Department, CSRC

Salvatore F. Sodano, Chairman & CEO, Securities Exchange, USA

Hong Lei, Director, Funds Supervising Department, CSRC

Caroline Goodman, Head of international business development, London Stock Exchange

Li Shan, President, Bank of China

3. International Symposium on WTO Laws & Regulations on the Import & Export of Technology

Time: May 24, Tel: 6505 0035

Venue: Oriental Garden Hotel

Liu Changcun, Section Chief, Legal Affairs Office, State Council

Lu Jijian, Section Chief, Department of Science & Technology, MOFTEC

Yang Guohua, Section Chief, Department of Treaty & Law, MOFTEC

4. World Sports Forum

Time: May 23-24, Tel: 6717 3416, 67100876

Venue: Kunlun Hotel

Sun Gang, Vice Director General, National Tourism Bureau of China

Chung Soon-Taek, Chairman, Busan Asia Games Organizing Committee

He Zhenliang, Executive Member, International Olympic Committee; President, IOC Culture & Olympic Education Committee

5. Chinese & Foreign Academic Forum on Frontiers in Science

Time: May 27-28, Tel: 8498 4112, 8498 7974

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

Michael Spence, Professor, Stanford Business School, Stanford University

Paul Greengard, Professor, Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, Rockefeller University

6. Global Finance Forum

Time: May 24-25, Tel: 6710 0876, 6717 4601

Venue: Beijing Hotel

Zhu Congjiu, President, Shanghai Exchange

Liu Erfei, Chairman, Merrill Lynch China

Shi Jixing, President, Eastern Communications Co. Ltd.

Shang Fulin, President, Chinese Bank of Agriculture

Liu Xiaoguang, President, Capital Group

7. Forum of the World's Top 500 CEOs and Heads of China's Leading Companies

Time: May 24-26, Tel: 8870 7168, 8870 7169

Venue: Great Hall of the People, Beijing International Convention Center

Leif Johansson, CEO, Volvo

Heinrich v. Pierer, President and CEO, Siemens AG

Scott McGregor, President and CEO, Philips Semiconductors

Hong Hu, Governor, Jilin Province, China

Mou Xinsheng, General Administrator, Customs General Administration of China

8. 2002 China International Forum on the Construction Industry

Time: May 26-27, Tel: 8398 2493

Venue: Kunlun Hotel

Jin Dejun, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Construction, P.R.C.

Lee Shine See, Director General, Works Bureau, Government of Hong Kong SAR

9. China Listed Companies Summit

Time: May 22-23, Tel: 6307 6047, 6307 6055

Venue: Jing Xi Hotel

Zhou Xiaochuan, President, CSRC

Zhang Yujun, General Manager, Shenzhen Stock Exchange

Zhou Qingye, Supervisor for Public Listing, Shanghai Stock Exchange

10. E-Governance & Public Administration Forum

Time: May 24-26, Tel: 6406 5948-815, 812

Venue: Great Hall of the People

Zhou Hongren, Vice Director, China Information Expert Consultative Committee

11. Senior Management Forum on Software Development in China

Time: May 26-27, Tel: 6517 1358, 6518 0196

Venue: Beijing International Hotel

Lou Qinjian, Vice Minister of Information Industry, P.R.C.

12. China Science & Technology Industry Forum

Time: May 24-25, Tel: 6899 5363, 6832 6033

Venue: China Science & Technology Hall

13. International Forum on Business Incubation

Time: May 24, Tel: 6894 5598

Venue: Asia Hotel, Beijing

Dr. Klaus Plate, President, International Association of Science Parks

14. Summit on China in the 21st Century & HR Management and Development

Time: May 26-27, Tel: 6448 1369, 6420 0619

Venue: Oriental Garden Hotel

Han Guangyao, Vice Chairman, China Human Resources Association

15. Forum on Biology and Medicine: International Seminar on Trunk Cell Research

Time: May 24-28, Tel: 6209 2484, 6209 2174

Venue: Jiuhua International Convention Center

16. Forum of Overseas Scholars on Hi-tech Industries

Time: May 24, Tel: 8266 7841

Venue: Guo Hong Hotel

17. Forum on Intellectual Property Right Protection

Time: May 27, Tel: 6425 0437

Venue: New Otani Chang Fu Gong Hotel

Wang Jingchuan, Commissioner, State Intellectual Property Office, P.R.C.

Lin Wenyi, Vice Mayor, Beijing Municipal Government

18. Forum on China's Science & Technology Parks

Time: May 22-23, Tel: 6866 7259

Venue: Guo Hong Hotel

Exchanges

Keynote Speech & Opening Ceremony

Time: afternoon, May 23,

Venue: Great Hall of the People

Fourth Annual Meeting of the International Business Leaders Advisory Council to the Mayor of Beijing

Time: May 22-23

Venue: St. Regis Hotel

World Conference on Invention (WIPO's 2nd Forum on Creativity and Invention - A Better Future for Humanity in the 21st Century)

Time: May 22-24, Tel: 6425 0437

Venue: Beijing Hotel

International Convention on Environmental Protection -- Forum on the Global Environment & Technologies for Efficient Use of Energy

Time: May 24-26, Tel: 6523 2748, 6523 6472, 6524 0424, 6523 6912

Venue: China International Science & Technology Expo Center

Advisory Seminar for Zhongguancun Science & Technology Park

Time: May 26-27

Venue: Beijing Hotel

2002 Beijing International Conference on E-Commerce

Time: May 23-26, Tel: 6891 2845

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

On-line Job Fair

Time: May 23-June 13, Tel: 6426 9988-431 (ext.)

Venue: www.bjrc.com

Summit on Enterprise Network Marketing

-Successful Applications of Technical Solutions and Platforms for E-Commerce

Time: May 21-23, Tel: 8606 3655-224, 377 (ext.)

Venue: Huadu Hotel

-Technical Solutions for Management of Chinese Website Forums

Time: May 20-24, Tel: 8606 3666-570, 572 (ext.)

Venue: Hua Bei Hotel, Huadu Hotel

-Academic Exchange on Technology for Searching for Website Addresses

Time: May 24-26, Tel: 6254 8600

Venue: Jade Palace Hotel (Cui Gong Hotel)

International Symposium on Bio-diversity Protection & Hi-tech Application

Time: May 22-24, Tel: 68418600

Venue: Beijing Sci-Tech Center

Symposium on the Development of Wang-fujing-Beijing's famous commercial street

Time: May 25, Tel: 6527 4327

Venue: Tian Lun Dynasty Hotel

Open Court For Trial of Patent Dispute Case

Time: May 27, Tel: 6425 0437

Venue: State Intellectual Property Protection Office

International Symposium on the Impact of Modern Architecture on Urban Development

Time: May 22, Tel: 6425 1433

Venue: Jing Guang New World Hotel

High-Level Symposium on “The WTO and China”: International Economic Development Strategies

Time: May 24-25, Tel: 6425 0423, 6566 2245

Venue: National Political Consultative Hall

On-line Presentation of Sci-tech Projects Seeking Investment, Cooperation and Technology Transfers

Time: March 1-May 31, Tel: 8208 5931

Venue: www.bjrc.com

Projects Signing & Closing Ceremony

Time: May 28

Venue: Beijing International Convention Center

Recommended Science Tour Routes

Route 1: Tiantan (Temple of Heaven), Forbidden City - Tong Ren Tang (a Chinese medicine manufacturer) - International Exhibition Center - International Convention Center - World Trade Center - Great Wall, the Ming Tombs - Peking University, Tsinghua University, Shangdi (China's first national-level IT industry base)

Route 2: Shangdi, Beijing Glorious Land (Hi-tech Agricultural Project) - Tong Ren Tang, International Exhibition Center - International Convention Center - World Trade Center - Agriculture Exhibition Center, Chinese Military Museum - Beijing Economic Development Zone - Peking University, Tsinghua University

Route 3: Peking University, Tsinghua University, Shangdi - Tong Ren Tang - International Exhibition Center - International Convention Center, World Trade Center

Route 4: International Exhibition Center - Tong Ren Tang - International Convention Center, World Trade Center - Agriculture Exhibition Center, Chinese Military Museum

City Park to Host World Cup Carnival

By Su Wei

Lotus Pond (Lianhuachi 莲花池) Park will convert into a full-on football carnival for the duration of the World Cup.

Three giant screen TVs will be erected, circled by about 10,000 seats, plus 40 monitors in three squares of the park east of the south square of Beijing West Railway Station.

"The 44-year-old dream is still too far away. It is expensive and there are too few tickets for everyone to

watch the games in South Korea," says Li Hao.

A former amateur footballer of Economics Daily, the deputy general secretary of the carnival says the Korean barbecue and performances before each game will create the same atmosphere in South Korea.

Li said his company Beijing Zhenyang Exhibition has invested more than 2.9 million yuan. He does not worry about making a loss. "Within one week, over 2,000 people have booked tickets."

"It deserves our large investment in the park, which has the largest square in Beijing. We are proud to be the first to host a football fans' carnival."

The carnival will take place 12:30 am to 10:30 pm from May 31 to June 30.

Reservations: 6331-4682/6331-5482 (No English service) E-mail: zhangzhangqian@btamail.net.cn

Price: 10 yuan per person per day, 7 yuan per person per day for a group of over 30. For a 31-day ticket, 210 yuan.

Letter Tricks Intellectuals out of Cash

By Ivy Zhang

More than 1,000 Chinese professors, doctors, senior engineers and celebrities were cheated by a letter informing them a monument would be erected to them in "China Celebrity Garden" in Tai An, Shandong.

The recipient of the honor needed to remit 2,000 yuan to 100,000 yuan to fund the monument. Hong Guojing, in his 40s, confessed after being detained last month that he had swindled more than 2 million yuan out of them all.

"Hong has squandered the money," said Zhang Zhongmin, a Tai An Public Security Bureau spokesman. "When we caught him at a guesthouse in Tai An city, there were only 10 tablets worth a few hundred yuan each."

But a cheap tablet cost Professor Xu, a former English instructor at Beijing Garment Institute, more than 2,000 yuan.

"I received a letter addressed from Beijing Shengshi Civilization and Culture Corporation in early June last year," Xu told *Beijing Evening News*.

In the letter, Hong claimed himself the boss and stated that a tablet bearing Prof. Xu's record of achievements would be erected in the China Celebrity Garden at a minimum cost of 2,000 yuan.

Prof. Xu then remitted 2,000 yuan to Hong on June 19.

"A few days later, I called the company for confirmation, but was told my name was mistakenly left out of the list and the tablet was not made for me yet."

Xu on July 1 received another letter in which Hong apologized and said Xu's name had been added to the list.

On April 1, an invitation letter arrived. "Hong informed me the tablet was ready and asked me to attend the opening ceremony of the celebrity garden in Tai An on May 1," said Xu.

Xu arrived by train 6 pm on May 1 and went to the designated guest house.

"But the receptionist told me the guest in room 130 had been detained by the local police for fraud a few days before."

Xu dialed 110 and went to the station around 7 pm. He met five others from other provinces. "We talked for a while and it turned out that we all came to attend the opening ceremony."

Officer Zhang told the *Beijing Evening News* that police investigated the case after receiving an accusation letter from Xinjiang. They detained Hong on April 4.

Hong, from Zhejiang Province, was sentenced to five years, six months in 1992 by Beijing Mentougou Court for swindling others into purchasing teaching materials by mail.

The case is still under investigation.



Sudanese Majda Elfaki sells her make-up skills

Photo by Qu Liyan

Exotic Bazaar for Exotic Shoppers

By Su Wei

The back of his T-shirt suggests "Learn from Lei Feng."

"It is the right time to wear the right shirt," says Bob Foday, a young married man from Sierra Leone. On the front, he sports a picture of the China cult pop icon.

"I am learning from Lei Feng and doing good," he says.

Foday has just bought himself an Indian music CD and says he will "certainly buy more" in the garden of the Kempinski Hotel on Saturday, a shopping event like no other in the capital.

Ambassadors, officials and their wives, mostly from African and Arab countries, assembled to buy and sell their national products including clothes, handicrafts, jewelry, wines and snacks.

"Within a few meters, you can buy typical

products from many countries," says Lao Du. He spent 200 yuan on two bottles of Cuban Rum. Nehad Sukayri, wife of Rajab Sukayri, Jordan ambassador, also the organizer, says it is the third international bazaar to raise funds to help Chinese charities.

"The poverty and education of Chinese children became important to me during my travels through China," she says. "In 2000, we made 90,000 yuan."

"Only five bottles of Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay populated by Thracians remain. Forty-five were sold within one hour!" says Cheryl Catarino, wife of Pedro Catarino, Portugal ambassador. "We sell at discounts of 35 and 45 yuan."

"This event should be supported by every Arabian embassy," says Talal H Al-Khudairi, minister plenipotentiary of the Iraqi embassy while munching on Egyptian snacks.

Shop Bars Tots

By Chen Ying

Unwilling to abandon their boy, Tong Xihang's family had to shop elsewhere because of a regulation of Makro Supermarket at Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District recently.

Visiting the supermarket for the first time on May 1, the family were blocked at the supermarket entrance because of their 3-year-old son's height 0.95 meters.

A notice hanging on the wall behind the customer information desk says children shorter than 1.2 meters are forbidden to enter.

At the entrance, a red line on the wall marks off the critical height. An employee stands here inspecting people's height.

Makro is a membership chain-store with two branches in Beijing, and another at Dahongmenxi Road, Fengtai. Both have the rule.

A spokesman of the supermarket said the shelves are more than 6 meters high and forklift trucks move among them.

"It's very dangerous for children as the employee sitting in the truck has a blind spot," he said.

But in another chain supermarket, PriceSmart, there is no such regulation.

"There is always a navigator near the forklift truck," said an employee of PriceSmart.

"Why shouldn't I take my child shopping?" said Tong. "It would be better if the market changed trucks or set up a special area for children here."

Culture Contest for Foreigners

By Su Wei

Foreigners who either study or work in Beijing are invited to enroll for a competition making Chinese handicrafts.

Materials are provided for the "Discover, Observe and Learn Beijing" competition, independently making traditional Chinese crafts including Chinese knots, kites, paper-cuts, dough figures, sand pictures and collages within the required three hours.

"We will also hold six training sessions for preparation and learning of the craft skills," said Wang Jian, vice director of sales and planning of Beijing Gongmei Group.

"Downloaded application forms can be sent back through e-mail or fax."

The competition will be held July 4 at the Ninth Floor, Beijing Arts & Crafts Building in No. 200 Wangfujing Dajie.

More details: Tel: 6523-3016, 9 am-5 pm from May 10-30 (simple English service available) or www.eart.net.cn

E-mail address: gmyxchb@163.com



Photo by Bai Jikai

Where to Buy City's Most Tasteless T-shirt

By Feng Yihua

Black Osama bin Laden T-shirts sold well at the Xiongmiao Huandao market in Haidian District, according to *Beijing Evening News* last week.

The front displays the holy alleged mass murderer sporting a trademark white Arabic scarf.

A peddler told the paper he had sold four or five T-shirts a day. One university student bought one and said, "It's conspicuous. I will wear it in my dormitory."

Beijing Today on May 12 paid a visit to the market but couldn't find any T-shirts. A peddler told the paper the market administration center had banned sales of bin Laden T-shirts.

"But if you really want to buy one, wait a few days," he said. "Recently they took strong measures, but I can print up a bin Laden or anyone you like."

By Sun Ming

He was a forlorn vagrant, an unsightly beggar and a pathetic thief living in the backstreets of Beijing, one of the forgotten ones who run away from home to make it in the big city every year.

But last week against all the odds, the city took 19-year-old Zhao Bin into its embrace. Beijing Tongren Hospital surgeons will today remove a tumor fit to burst out of his face. And while at the hospital on Sunday last week, Zhao met his father for the first time in five years.

Zhao on April 26 was caught stealing coins from the pay toilet at Si Hui Dong Subway Station. In his left shoe, police found 122 five mao coins, a total 61 yuan. Zhao confessed to making more than 1,000 yuan in two months, committing 23 such robberies. Police were stunned.

"His left cheek was bulgy and droopy," Huo Hongsheng told *Beijing Evening News*.

"And his left eyelid was inside out. Zhao said there was a large tumor under his left cheek."

Zhao's tale won sympathy from Beijingers over the newspaper's hotline in the following days. Most had met Zhao begging for money in subway stations.

"The child is very pitiful," said 60-year-old Mr. Chen, a retired worker. "If his face were not so ugly, perhaps he would have a job and not need to steal or to beg."

"What can he do after he comes out from detention? I want to sponsor him to receive an operation," said Liu Mei, a bank clerk.

Zhao came to the city from Luoyang, Henan



Father and son are reunited

Photo by Wang Yuan

Province five years ago.

"My tumor has been around since I was born and it gets bigger and bigger as I grow," Zhao told *Beijing Evening News* in the First Detention House on April 27.

Zhao said his parents divorced when he was 6 years old and his father married again six years later.

"I disliked my stepmother," he said. "So I left my family and came to Beijing in 1997."

Not wanting to influence the relationship between his father and his stepmother, Zhao said he had not contacted his father since Zhao began Beijing life by the railway station, collecting scraps and sleeping in the square before the station. "But it was difficult for me to do this winter, and so I

started begging there."

He moved to the subway stations in 2000 as he didn't want to hand over protection fees to local villains.

"I really don't want to be a beggar, but what can I do? I am so ugly all people are disgusted by me," said Zhao.

Zhao began to steal coins from the pay toilets when they first appeared in subway stations in March this year. He was sent to the First Detention House on April 27.

Released on May 10, Zhao was taken directly to Tongren Hospital. The hospital received Zhao at once, without asking any money up front.

Liu Jingming, director of the oral health department, said Zhao's tumor grows on his nerve fiber.

"It must be cut as soon as possible. If not, there will be new tumors appearing," said Liu.

Zhao's father, Zhao Wenxue came to Beijing on March 13 after receiving a phone call from *Beijing Evening News*.

"I've been to many cities trying to find you," the father said with tears. "Your grandma was worried half to death."

Zhao Wenxue said he had spent most of his savings trying to find his son.

"Thanks a lot to warm-hearted Beijingers," he said.

"I want to find a job in the future and then I'll never receive another dirty look," said Zhao Bin.

"Thanks a lot to Beijingers. I realize there are still kind people in this city."

By Yan Qing / Chen Ying

Since the start of the year, the Kunming Municipal Government has spent 380 million yuan on purchasing 800 work positions to help laid-off workers find employment, but only around 160 people have accepted these jobs.

Among its efforts to assist local laid-off workers, Kunming has initiated the “4050” project, which is focused on opening positions for the re-employment of laid-off women around 40-years-old and men around 50-years-old.

To make room for their employment, the Kunming Municipal Government began to dismiss employees that had already retired or were from other areas of the country from some departments, enterprises and service organizations under government administration at the end of last year. A total of 2,600 positions have become vacant since these measures were begun.

At the same time, the government has “purchased”, or provided the funding to support 800 work positions in public service fields at such places as police bureaus, local medical clinics, social security bureaus and urban traffic supervision teams.

Unfortunately, eighty percent of the jobs purchased are still vacant.

Many laid-off workers think the salaries offered at these jobs are so low that they cannot cover their basic costs of living, while other doubt they would be able to adjust to the working times of some jobs, such as security positions, and fear their lives would be thrown out of rhythm if they accept these positions. Some simply feel that the jobs offered are too demanding.

The government has stipulated that laid-off workers can receive unemployment pension for up to 24 months, after which they can only receive the lowest amount every month to take care of their costs of living.

The pension agreements of more than 2,500 laid-off workers signed with the city's employment service center expired at the end of last year, putting more pressure on the local government to address its employment situation.

The lack of enthusiasm about the employment opportunities provided by the government has become a source of embarrassment. The question of how to deal with employment problems rising from several years of government and state-owned enterprise reform has become a more pressing issue than ever. Opinions follow:

Looking Past Pensions

Kunming purchases jobs for laid-off workers

Spokesman who requested anonymity, Kunming Labor Employment Bureau

Most laid-off workers are older and not very competitive in terms of knowledge and technological skills. They really need help. Society can only stay balanced if they have some kind of basic living security. The question is not whether this move is worth making, but whether it can be effective. So far, this reemployment project has not produced its desired effects. However, it is one method to solve the problems of laid-off workers in earning a living, and it can be improved from this point.

Na Qi, Academy of Social Sciences of Yunnan Province

This move by the government to help laid-off workers find reemployment is creative and active, compared with simply providing them money to cover their costs of living. But it's not enough and proving difficult to put into practice.

The core of the problem is whether the government should purchase positions in public service fields for those laid-off workers. Every country faces employment problems of some kind. So all circles should make efforts to alleviate pressures from unemployment.

In western countries, jobs like those purchased by the Kunming Municipal Government are normally filled by volunteers, because those kinds of positions don't require professional employees.

However, the flip side is that the number of employment opportunities available in one area normally stays relatively constant during a given period. This means laid-off workers

will be re-employed at the cost of other people's jobs.

Zhang Min, Red Cross Society of China in Yunnan Province

Although our department has not tried this kind of policy, I think it will end up being a headache for employers if it is really put into practice. Opening new jobs, to some extent, goes against efforts already made to streamline administrative structures.

It's OK if an employer is pleased with an employee in a purchased position, but what is to be done when such an employee is not suitable? It would be unfair to other employees for that person to be kept on, and would be harmful to the enterprise's development. This raises another question of where the workers that have been refused are supposed to go?

Ren Xinmin, professor, Yunnan University

Despite their good intentions, the government's move raises some questions. For instance, what kinds of jobs can the government purchase? Where does the government raise the funds needed to purchase these jobs? How much should people in these jobs be paid? Is purchasing these jobs necessary?

It will be hard to make the purchasing of work positions practical in the market economy because the market has become more and more competitive.

The government's mission should be creating mechanisms for re-employment instead of directly participating in employment arrangements. An open information network should be created nationwide and the employment market should be allowed to function naturally.

SOUND BITES

“The city will build more economical apartments for people whose homes are due to be torn down. Efforts to construct new buildings should not damage the city's overall look and historical sites should continue to be protected.”

— Liu Qi, mayor of Beijing, regarding the Beijing municipal government's new plans for curbing air pollution and removing dilapidated houses in order to create a good environment for the 2008 Olympic Games

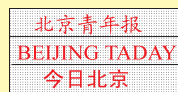
“China has not fundamentally reversed the trend of the deterioration of the ecosystem. China has a thriving tree-farming industry, but whether it can produce all the seedlings required remains to be seen. To replace the logging of forests, China plans to start commercial tree farms this year, financed by private investors. Plans call for 82 million acres of tree farms to be created over the next 10-15 years. But the nationwide effort still faces serious obstacles, including a shortage of money and uncertainty about the best species of trees to plant in many areas.”

— Lei Jiafu, deputy administrator of the State Forestry Administration, who says reforestation programs undertaken since the 1980s have not been enough to stop the degradation of China's forests

“He is the type of person who sleeps at 9:30 pm after watching the domestic news. In the morning, he only reads a few lines about what is written on the Middle East and the world due to his huge responsibilities. He listens and debates politely, but was not fully informed about the real conditions in the region, especially the conditions suffered by the Palestinian people. And so, he continues. I felt it was my duty to spend as long a time as possible to brief him on the facts directly and without an intermediary. I came out fully convinced that the man will act in the right direction.”

— Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia quoted in Okaz, a Saudi newspaper, after the prince visited US President George W. Bush's ranch in Texas last month

By Chen Ying / Li Qinghao



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Do peasants in China still only work in the fields? How do they view their situation? What do they expect from life?

Beijing Public Opinion Research Company has conducted a survey among peasants in 16 towns, with a total annual income over 1 billion yuan per town.

Agriculture not the Only choice

Over 75% of those surveyed do not depend solely on agriculture to support their family.

Nearly 56% work in township enterprises earning fixed monthly salaries.

With the promotion of the agricultural mechanization, fewer labors are needed. The development of village and township enterprises has also contributed to a reduction in the agricultural labor work pool.

Meanwhile, various government policies encourage peasants to take advantage of resources to develop non-agriculture sectors, such as fishery and forestry, while local governments are cooperating with other provinces and even internationally to export surplus agricultural laborers.

At the same time, increasing numbers of former agricultural laborers are finding new ways of making money, including investing in stocks and renting their houses out to city dwellers as holiday villas.

Fees and taxes still a Burden

All of those surveyed say their lives are still too burdensome. Over half say there is an urgent need for the government to provide more relief, while 19% call for increased efforts to improve relations between village leaders and ordinary villagers.

Although the central government has repeatedly called for measures to reduce or abolish unreasonable fees and taxes for peasants, many fees administered by local governments still exist under a variety of guises.

In some cities in Henan and Hebei for example, locals must annually contribute as much as 200 and 300 yuan each for building bridges, roads and schools, much more than the maximum set by the central government.

Wu Maofang, a peasant in Guizhou, complains that the fee for cable television is around 400 yuan, "But it was once only 60 yuan!"

He says one reason is that villages often exaggerate their annual production, in order to be praised by the county or provincial government. "But we then have to hand in a percentage of that supposed profit!"

There is a perception that many village leaders do not really care about peasants' life and concentrate on accumulating money for themselves.

One way of doing this to allocate more money to villagers, and then give extra fines. These leaders are generally assigned by the county or province.

"If we do not want to give the money, they may even take away of our furniture or household appliances. Sometimes they even take away our food!" says Yu Hua, a peasant from Shiyan, Hubei Province.

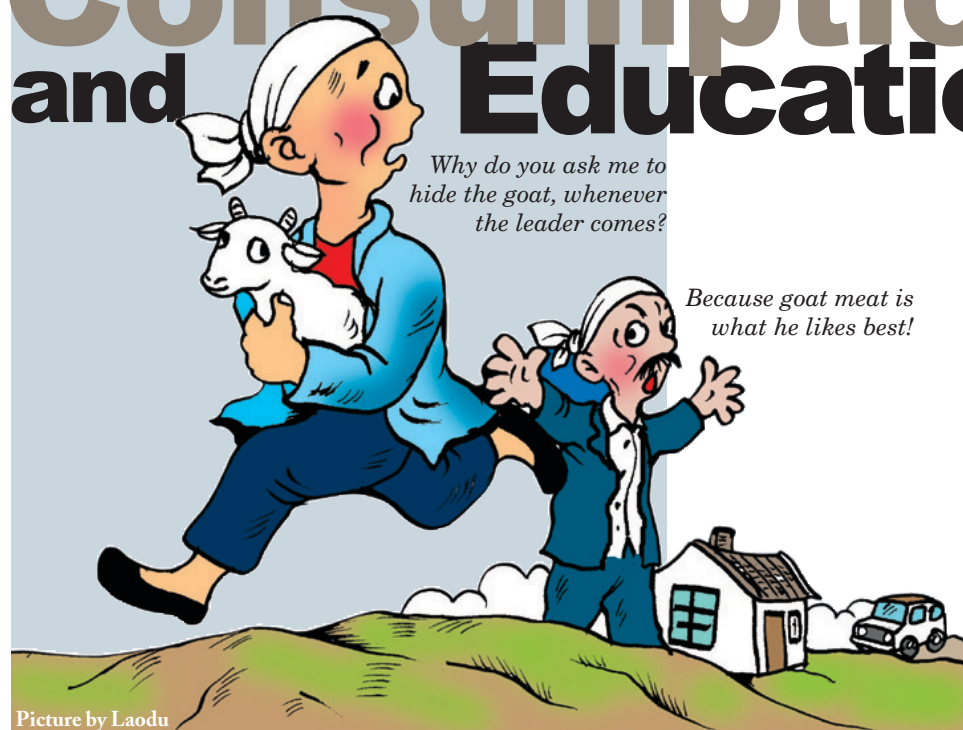
Meanwhile, some peasants say village leaders are accustomed to using money raised in this way to treat county leaders to dinners or provide entertainment during supervision inspections. They complain that bribery is common among village leaders.

"Even when we marry, we have to give something to the leaders. Otherwise we will have difficulty getting marriage registration. If we have no money to give the leader as a present, we would never have the opportunity to be allocated to join the army or be sent to work in the city," a young peasant from Baoding, Hebei says.

Less than 2% of the peasants surveyed say they would go traveling purely for leisure. But over 68% say they enjoy watching TV, chatting, playing cards and mahjong in their spare time.

The cost of travel is the main disincentive, despite improvements in the standard of living. The average annual income for peasants is now almost 3,000 yuan.

Peasants Focus on Employment, Fees, Consumption and Education



Picture by Laodu

Over half say there is an urgent need for the government to provide more relief, while 19% call for increased efforts to improve relations between village leaders and ordinary villagers.

96% of the surveyed families have a fixed telephone at home, and nearly 3% have more than two telephones. Over 47% of the surveyed families have a mobile phone. Meanwhile, 12% have a computer at home.

Over 66% say they would be very happy if their children obtained a university degree, followed by 30% who would be satisfied with a college degree.

Consumption Increases

96% of the surveyed families have a fixed telephone at home, and nearly 3% have more than two telephones. Over 47% of the surveyed families have a mobile phone. Meanwhile, 12% of the total surveyed families have a computer at home.

Li Lina, a peasant in Zhejiang says she can directly contact the technicians in the towns and placing an order through telephones.

Meanwhile, prices for computers and mobile phones are no longer prohibitively high, especially when many see such products as being important to their life. These days a mobile phone or computer can cost as little as 1,000 yuan, while the fee to install a telephone has been reduced to around 500 yuan.

The lack of readily accessible computer stores is one reason why computers remain less popular. In order to purchase a computer, it may be necessary to travel a considerable distance to a larger city, and then delivery is an added expense.

Also there are few maintenance stores in small villages and towns not to mention skilled technicians. So lack of after sales service is another problem for peasants considering the purchase of a computer.

Children's education greatest concern

Giving their children a good education ranks as the highest priority for nearly 60% percent of the peasants surveyed. Almost all hope their children will achieve at least senior high school education.

Over 66% say they would be very happy if their children obtained a university degree, followed by 30% who would be satisfied with a college degree. Less than 1% say middle school education is enough.

The figures suggest education is widely recognized as the most effective way of escaping poverty and raising one's living standards.

Meanwhile with the promotion of modern agricultural techniques, there is increasing understanding that there is more to raising crops than simply planting seeds, fertilizing, weeding, and harvesting.

Ai Huayu, a young peasant from Anhui now working in Beijing says it is impossible for peasants to have medical or old age insurance.

However he says life for his friends with a university degree is totally different. "One found a job in Zhongguancun and then became a Beijing resident. He can enjoy all the preferential policies that entails, such as getting a bank loan to purchase a home."

Meanwhile, Ai says in the place where he works, the fee for waste collection is three yuan per household per month. "But for us, it is three yuan per person per month."

However the survey also suggests that a large number of peasants are still reluctant to pursue higher education for their children. The main reason is the expense of education.

A peasant from Ningyang County, Shandong Province, once calculated that it would cost around 1,700 yuan for a junior school student per year and at least 2,600 yuan for a senior high school student per year.

Meanwhile, some believe that what their children learn at school has no application in agriculture. "A high school graduate does not even know what the best season is to grow high quality grains, to say nothing of how to plant them!"

(By Su Wei)

Weekly Survey

Doctors Concerned about Relations with Patients

By Su Wei

A survey conducted by China Doctors Association in 114 hospitals in Beijing, Sichuan and Guangdong suggests that most doctors are aware there is an increasing number of disputes that end in physical violence between patients and doctors.

According to the survey, the number of such disputes per hospital annually has been around 66 in the past three years and an average of five doctors per hospital have been assaulted.

Over 60% of the doctors in these hospitals complain about unsafe conditions.

In contrast only 5% say they are not worried about their safety and never worry about being beaten by patients.

Meanwhile, more than 70% believe their legal rights are being violated.

They call for more regulations to prevent an increase of the incidence of doctors being threatened or beaten.

Crime Rate Falls

By Su Wei

A survey conducted by China Economic Monitoring Center reveals that slightly over 45% of Beijingers think social order was good in 2001, about 8% more than in 2000.

The data released by Beijing Police Station Bureau shows the number of crime cases in 2001 was 6% less than 2000 and the number of alerts received by the police stations was 11% less than 2000.

The data also reveals that the number of severe cases such as arson, kidnapping, murder, robbery and rape was nearly 14% less than before.

The number of robberies fell by about 23%.

Meanwhile, there was an increase of around 18% in the number of crimes solved.

Lower Interest Rates to Have Negligible Effect

By Su Wei

China Economic Monitoring Center has conducted a survey among 300 Beijingers on their attitudes towards the lowering of interest rates in savings and loans.

Nearly 53% of the surveyed say lower interest rates would not have any influence on their work and life.

"The lowering of the rate is too small. Only 0.25% for the savings and 0.5% for the loans," many responded.

32% have a negative opinion towards the lower rate. They say the government is "taking more money" from them.

However, over 15% say they are happy with the lowering interest, especially for the bank loans for starting a business.

Meanwhile, when asked whether consumption plans would be affected, 63% say the lower interest rates will cause them to spend more on such commodities as household appliances (30%), travel (16%) and education (14%).

51% say they will invest more in stock (19%), securities (11%) and insurance (10%).

Only slightly over 9% say they will reduce their bank savings.



May 7 Air Crash

By Xinhua/Cheng Ying

Rescue team spokesman of the May 7 air crash Shan Chunchang said at a press conference in Dalian Wednesday that progress has been made in the investigation into the cause of the accident, and the recovery of victims' bodies and the wreckage.

"Once the cause of the May 7 air crash is found, those responsible for the disaster will be punished according to law," said Shan.

The 4,000 kg section of wing is the heaviest piece of wreckage to be recovered so far (above)



In response to a question about whether or not the government will update rescue equipment and improve civil aviation safety, Shan said that advanced technical equipment has already been used during the rescue operations.

An MD-82 China Northern Airlines passenger airliner carrying 112 passengers and crew on a flight from Beijing to Dalian, Liaoning Province, plunged into the sea at 9:40 p.m. on May 7 after the pilot reported a fire in the cabin.

There were no survivors among the 103 passengers and nine crew aboard, according to China Northern Airlines.

Seven overseas passengers were aboard the plane, three from Japan, as well as individuals from the Republic of Korea, India, Singapore and France.

One "Black Box" Found

Salvage workers started searching on Sunday night for the two "black boxes", or flight-data recorders. Detection equipment shipped from the United States to Dalian was being used in the search. One of the black boxes, the flight deck voice recorder, was found around 3:00 p.m. Tuesday.

The beacon from the other black box, the flight deck data recorder, was also found, indicating that the box had been damaged.

Deputy head of the General Administration of Civil Aviation Yang Yuanyuan says the voice recorder has been taken to the Security Technology Center for Civil Aviation in Beijing.

"Although analysis of the voice recorder, especially the background sounds, is difficult, the data is crucial to the investigation," Yang said.

Wreckage salvaged so far includes two engines, the nose and tail sections, the wings, undercarriage, instruments and some seats. These are being reassembled in a warehouse in Dalian to provide clues for the team investigating the cause of the crash, according to Song Jiahui, director of the salvage bureau of the Maritime Safety Administration.



The photo shows the first "black boxes" (cockpit voice recorder) and the beacon attached to it

Bodies of 39 Crash Victims Claimed

The bodies of 39 victims have been claimed so far, Shan Chunchang said in Dalian Wednesday.

He confirmed a total of 73 bodies have been recovered from the sea off the coast of Dalian, including those of the passengers from France and the Republic of Korea. The body of a Hong Kong passenger has already been taken home.

Shan said DNA tests will be carried out to confirm the identity of some bodies.

Compensation for Air Crash Victims Announced

The first indemnity agreement between relatives of victims and the civil aviation authorities was signed in Dalian Wednesday.

Shan Chunchang said that 185,000 yuan (US \$22,000) has been paid as compensation. Relatives of the seven foreign passengers aboard the plane would also be entitled to the same amount of compensation.

As Jiang Lianying, general manager of China Northern Airlines, announced Monday, this sum will not include money already paid to victims' relatives for living expenses, funeral expenses or accommodation in Dalian, nor will it affect allowances to the relatives by the government or the victims' employers.

To comfort relatives of the victims and to lessen their pain, over 7,000 people have been mobilized from Beijing, Heilongjiang, Jilin and Hubei provinces to take part in relief work.

Grieving Family Members of Air Crash Victims Being Cared for

After the crash, senior Chinese leaders, including President Jiang Zemin, Premier Zhu Rongji, Vice-President Hu Jintao and Vice-Premier Li Lanqing, ordered all-out efforts to rescue possible survivors.



Plane wreckage and victims' belongings are transported to Dalian harbor
Xinhua photos

On May 10, Vice-Premier Wu Bangguo visited family members of some of the victims in Dalian.

Wu made a special visit to relatives of the Japanese victims and extended condolences to them. The relatives of the Japanese victims expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the Chinese government.

Meanwhile family members of six overseas victims arrived in Dalian to identify the bodies of their loved ones on May 11.

China Northern Airlines issued letters of condolence on May 8 to all families of the victims, saying that the company would do its best to investigate the cause of the crash.

Local Dalian officials, including Mayor Li Yongjin, also visited those victims' families who were in Dalian.

The Dalian municipal government selected 149 government functionaries who together with 138 staff members from the airline company took care of crash victims' family members staying in five local hotels.

Governments from several provincial and municipal areas, including Heilongjiang and Hubei provinces and Beijing, also sent representatives to Dalian with condolences for the families of any local citizens who died in the crash.

In addition, four psychologists from Beijing University and the Beijing-based Anding Hospital have been invited to Dalian to provide counseling for family members.

JP Morgan Chase Bank Wins the Mariner

By Ivy Zhang

JP Morgan Chase Bank has paid almost \$6 million at a public auction for a supertanker impounded in February by the Guangzhou Maritime Court.

According to the Guangzhou Maritime Court, the tanker is by far the largest foreign vessel to be sold by judicial auction in China.

The M.T. Mariner, owned by Seastream Shipping was based in Liberia but under the management and control of the Coulouthros family of Greece.

The tanker was manufactured by Hyundai Heavy Industries in 1976.

The auction was conducted at Guangzhou Maritime Court on May 9. Bidding opened at \$5 million, and JP Morgan Chase Bank

of Greece applied for the seizure of the Mariner, claiming an outstanding payment of \$330,000 for fuel and demanded the owner to pay a \$400,000 guarantee.

On March 14, the court received an application from JP Morgan Chase Bank.

The bank claimed that the ship owner had failed to repay a loan and interest due in the amount of about \$7.3 million. It applied for the seizure of the vessel and demanded a \$7.8 million guarantee.

The court approved the applications immediately, however Seastream Shipping failed to provide the guarantees requested by the court and reached no repayment agreement with any of the creditors.

Sold for \$6 million

The court released the tanker on May 14 after receiving payment from JP Morgan Chase Bank.

"Given the age and condition of the vessel, further trading is very unlikely and she will probably be sold for scrap," said Raja Bose, a senior associate lawyer with Watson Farley Williams.

"JP Morgan Chase bank registered to bid at the auction to protect their interests as the first priority mortgagees of the Mariner," Raja Bose, a senior associate lawyer with international law firm Watson Farley Williams, who were representing the bank, told *Beijing Today*.

There were over 70 people representing seven registered bidders packed into the court room where the auction was conducted, Bose said.

Mariner is impounded

In mid-February this year, the M.T. Mariner, flying a Bahamas flag, anchored off Shuidong port, Maoming, Guangdong province.

Owing to the size of the tanker, it was required to anchor outside the harbor, 35 nautical miles from the coast.

On February 19, Guangzhou Maritime Court received an application from the US based fuel supply company Trans-Tec to impound the Mariner. The company claimed the ship's owner owed it over 1 million dollars for fuel.

On February 22, the court ordered the owner to provide a guarantee of \$1.3 million while ordering Trans-Tec to provide the court with a counter-guarantee.

The next day, Trans-Tec put up 600,000 yuan and the court ruled that the ship be impounded.

Shortly after, another two companies lodged similar suits.

On February 25, O.W Malta

tries, the case is quite complex."

As to why the foreign creditors choose China to settle their disputes with the ship owner; Watson, Farley & Williams lawyer Raja Bose told *Beijing Today*, "The vessel was already (impounded) in Shuidong by another creditor. Both our clients and ourselves put faith in the excellent reputation of the Guangzhou Maritime Court and its experienced judges who handle many public auctions a year."

Bose said that the court released the tanker on May 14 after receiving payment from JP Morgan Chase Bank. "Given the age and condition of the vessel, further trading is very unlikely and she will probably be sold for scrap."



The Mariner anchored off Shuidong port, Guangdong province was released this Tuesday
Photo provided by the Guangdong Maritime Court

Specifications of M.T. Mariner

Flag: Bahamas	Gross tonnage: 130,000 tons
Port of registry: Nassau	Net tonnage: 100,000 tons
Type of ship: Oil Tanker	No. of cargo tanks: 21
Length: 344 m	Total capacity: 316,000 cubic meters
Breadth: 52 m	Date of delivery: 22/11/1976
Depth: 27 m	

By Zhu Lin

Finding a professional tattooist in Beijing can be difficult if you lack the right kind of connections. Zhang Ziyu, a 45-year-old man living in Liulichang, in the south of Beijing, is one of the professional tattoo artists in Beijing.

He doesn't have his own salon, his clients find him by word of mouth.

Zhang is as passionate about his work now as he was when he started in the business five years ago. Commenting on his chosen career, he says, "If you think something is an art, then you should go for it like an artist."

A different medium

Zhang was interested in art long before he became involved in the tattoo business, and although he never formally studied art, he had lessons with several well-known artists. In 1997 he visited San Francisco, and saw a tattoo parlor for the first time. "How fantastic to paint

on the body instead of on paper!" he thought.

This new art form aroused his curiosity and interest and he started to learn, dropping in to stores everyday, learning from different tattoo artists and avidly reading the latest tattoo magazines.

He found the art of tattooing had much in common with the basic skills of painting. What was more, many popular tattoos, such as dragons and flowers, had a close tie with Chinese painting. "I don't know why I was so confident about my ability to do it well, although I had never thought about doing tattoos before I went to the States," he says.

When he returned to China a year later, he brought with him a complete set of tattooing equipment, as well as 40 or so magazines and books on the art, all of which cost him \$5,000.

In 1998, there were no professional tattooists in Beijing. Zhang set up his business in a corner of the now defunct "Li Bo Beauty Salon." He designed his own advertisement, which was printed in the Beijing Evening

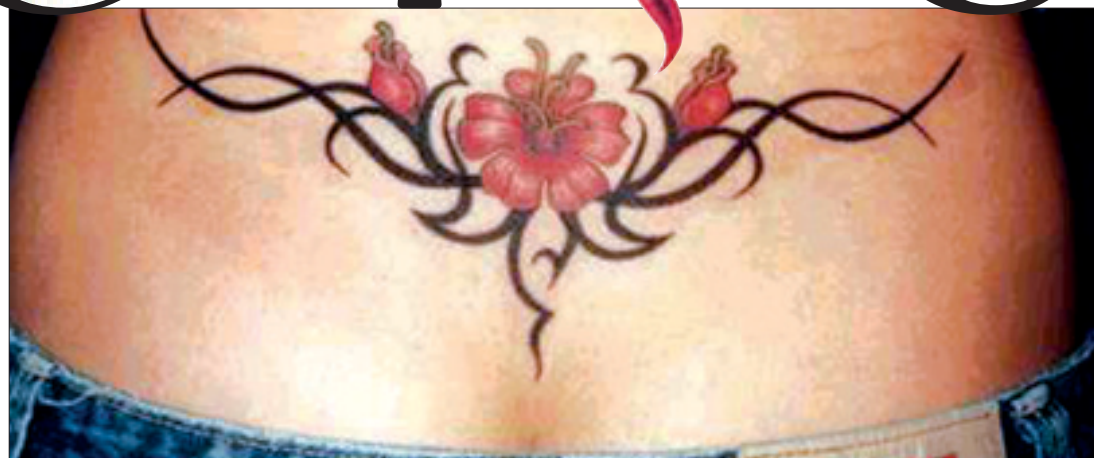


Geng Xiaomin is very proud of his tattoo done by Zhang Ziyu, and he's just sorry he cannot bear to extend the image further. The siney biceps are very sensitive!

TATTOO YOU



The phoenix took Zhang 32 hours to finish.



This work typifies how a tattoo follows the line of the body.

Photos by Zhang Ziyu and Cui Jun

News. The following day, the two telephones at the salon rang almost constantly. More than 400 people called, enquiring about getting a tattoo.

Variety of tastes

Zhang's busiest day to date saw him tattoo nine clients. The longest single work that has ever taken him to complete was 32 hours, for a phoenix on a woman's back. His clients' professions range from rock 'n' roll musicians to individual businessmen like himself, from 24-year-old modern artists to a 60-year-old driver.

A tattoo transposes an image onto the flesh, so the artist must take into account the line of the body and texture of the skin. According to Zhang, a good tattoo enhances the body's beauty. He says that most people who want a tattoo love their body and want to show it off. But there are also those who get a tattoo to disguise or cover a scar or birthmark.

Zhang pays particular attention to the image used for a tattoo. He spends a long time studying a client's idea. He tells of a musician aged no more than 30 who once came to him. "I want something special," she said, but was unsure about the specific image she wanted. Zhang talked with her for three hours, determining her taste and preferences. Finally she mentioned that she had a strong affinity with fire. This gave Zhang the clue he had been searching for. He designed an image of the Chinese character for "fire," which looked as if it had been written in flames.

"If the client's idea inspires me, my desire to create will be raised. I'll even charge less, because I'm afraid the expensive price will scare them off," he says.

The hardest thing is to tattoo a portrait, as the area of skin to which the tattoo is being applied needs to be stretched. Zhang recalls a young man who asked for a tattoo of his deceased mother's face on his chest. The mother's features were not particularly distinctive, and Zhang found the task a test of his abilities. The young man did not speak a word until Zhang had finished, then after studying the completed tattoo in the mirror, broke into a smile and said, "Finally, I stay with my mother all my life!"

The different textures of skin can lead to very different visual results. Zhang becomes very excited

when he encounters someone whose skin color lends itself to being tattooed, because it is such a wonderful chance to create something. "It's just like a jade artist meeting a fine block of jade. What's different is that a tattoo is a living art!"

Choice for life

Zhang always warns his clients that once they decide to have a tattoo, they must carry it permanently. "Think carefully, do you really want to do it?" he will ask. He says five years ago, people coming to him usually had a very simple idea and didn't think carefully or artistically. "Give me a tiger!" they would cry. But nowadays, people's tastes have developed," he says.

Zhang refuses to do tattoos for students, "They are not mature enough," he says, "and don't understand the meaning of having something permanently on your body." Zhang also refuses to tattoo the Nazi swastika.

Tattoos still have a bad name in China. "It seems that only people in gangs or prisoners have tattoos. People having tattoos are not allowed to join the army or police force in China," said Zhang. "I just wish people would treat it as a personal choice. It's just like dying your hair, something few people dared to do in China just five years ago."

Generally speaking, older people won't appreciate the art, but Zhang's 80-year-old mother is an exception. Sometimes when he has finished working on a tattoo, his mother will come to have a look. "It's beautiful!" she exclaims, and the client will be more than pleased. "But don't you do it on your own body," she tells him privately.

Zhang uses disposable needle and gloves when he's working. The first question for many of Zhang's clients is, "Do you use a disposable needle?" They will not consider getting a tattoo until he assures them there is no health risk. There are now around a dozen tattooists in Beijing, and Zhang says to ensure a high standard of hygiene is maintained, the profession needs to be strictly administered.

Zhang exudes a youthful and carefree demeanor that belies his 45 years. "Because I'm living a happy life," he declares, "Is there anything more important than that? My skills, talents and imagination are so valued that many individuals permanently wear them, and the works grow with their bodies!"



Zhang has an album for tattoo image samples. His clients discuss their choices with him. "Are you sure you want this one?" he asks regularly.

Zhang's equipment comes all from the US.



By Miao Yajie

The photos, on show at the China Millennium Monument Art Museum, capture many unrepeatable moments of life in the Chinese capital between 1933-46. They document Morrison's view of the city she chose as her home for some thirteen years. It is the first time in more than fifty years that these photographs have been exhibited in the city that they chronicle, fulfilling a long-held wish of Hedda Morrison and her husband Alastair to share the photographs with the people of Beijing.

A Familiar Stranger

In fact this is not the first time Beijingers have had the chance to enjoy memories of old Beijing through Hedda Morrison's viewfinder. Dr. Kevin Fewster, director of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, the co-organizer of the exhibition, told *Beijing Today* of his surprising find at the Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant last Wednesday. He and his party dined at the restaurant, where 70 years ago, Morrison photographed a chef roasting a Beijing duck. After Fewster showed a copy of the photo to the manager, he was led to a corner where the restaurant's history is displayed, and was surprised to see on the wall exactly the same photo he held in his hand. It was Morrison's, however it had been attributed to "Helen". "Hedda Morrison lived in Beijing in a particular time. She received modernist photographic training, and had a particularly strong sense of composition, very strong design that leads your eye to the subject. This makes her work very striking and memorable," says Claire Roberts, senior curator of Asian decorative arts and design at Powerhouse Museum, "That's why her photographs have been widely reproduced." "Many of her photos do not bear her name, and I think, as a woman, it's important to know whose eyes they were," Roberts says, explaining why she came up with the idea of holding the exhibition.

Brief biography

Hedda Morrison (née Hammer) was born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1908. At the age of eleven, she was given her first camera — a Box Brownie — and she quickly developed a passion for photography. In September 1929, she enrolled at the National Institute for Photography in Munich, the first photography school to be established in Germany. In her final examination report in 1931 she was commended for "very good outdoor photography". After graduation, Hedda found voluntary work in a commercial studio in her hometown. The studio produced portraits, landscapes, architectural and advertising photography that was influenced by the contemporary aesthetic of "new realism" and Modernist formalism. In 1933, she responded to an advertisement in a photographic journal and for the next five years, managed the German-owned commercial photographic studio Hartung's Photo Shop (Adong Zhaoxiangguan) in Beijing's legation quarter. Hartung's was a busy commercial studio employing seventeen local Chinese staff and boasting a well-established clientele including diplomats, resident foreigners, missionaries and travelers. After her contract at Hartung's expired in 1938 Hedda remained in Beijing working as a freelance photographer. In 1946 she married Alastair Morrison, an Australian who was born in Beijing in 1915. After leaving China in 1947, the couple lived in Sarawak for twenty years. She was employed by the Sarawak government between 1960 and 1966 to work part-time in the photographic section of



An enlargement of a photograph by Morrison of Dashala St, at the entrance to the exhibition. By angling her camera slightly upwards, Morrison has focused on the look of the street rather than the street life.



The bicycle was Hedda's primary means of transport in Peking. Alastair took this photo outside the western city walls in spring 1941. Photo provided by Powerhouse Museum

Stepping 70 Years Back in Time

Paying respects to parents at New Year, A corner of the Forbidden City wall and moat, Buddhist monk making an offering; these are some of the 85 black and white photographs by German-born Australian photographer Hedda Morrison (1908-1991), taking gallery-goers back to the Beijing of 70 years ago, when it was known as Peking.

the Information Office. In 1967, the Morrisons settled in Canberra, Australia, where Hedda died in 1991. A year later, Alastair Morrison donated 400 of her works to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Thin slices of space and time

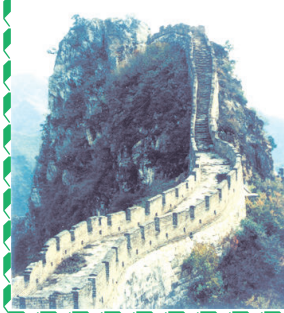
During her thirteen years in Beijing, Hedda Morrison took thousands of photographs, documenting architecture and streetscapes, craftspeople at work, street vendors, and religious or old customs. She was particularly interested in traditional crafts and took many series of photographs that record the processes of making and creating. Many of her photographs have strong, modernist inspired compositions, incorporating dramatic birds-eye views, acute angles and deep shadows. Her portraits are often candid, while those that are posed maintain an air of naturalism and demonstrate her ability to establish a strong rapport with her subjects. As Claire Roberts points out, Morrison chose not to photograph many of the uglier or controversial sides of Beijing life: the Japanese occupation, social conflict, civil unrest, poverty, the legation quarter and the lives of westerners in Beijing. Her images contribute to the large body of professional and amateur photographs of China taken by westerners in the period leading up to the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Such photographs represent thin slices of space and time, and together they function as a collective memory. Like other western photographers, through her choices, Morrison constructed a particular image of China, which was primarily intended for a western audience. With Morrison's photographs in his mind, Powerhouse director Kevin Fewster set foot in the Forbidden City for the first time in his life. He described the experience of walking through the ancient Imperial Palace, side by side with Chinese people enjoying their own culture, as a privilege, however he wondered whether Beijingers would find Morrison's old Beijing interesting or not. His concern is no doubt groundless, as in the recent years more and more people are expressing a nostalgia for the tranquility of old Beijing, as exemplified by the old city walls and pailou (ceremonial archways). Such longings share with Morrison not only the specific moment of the photograph, but a warm and poetic memory, and a passion for the city.

A passion that is clearly stated by her husband in his autobiography *The Bird Fancier: a journey to Peking*, and clearly shared by Hedda: "I had been reared in a somewhat Chinese atmosphere, had met any number of people who had been in Peking, and had heard and read a great deal about the city. I had tended to view with some skepticism the love for Peking which old Peking hands had all acquired. I felt that a discriminating traveler such as myself would see things more clearly and probably be less impressed, but was to find that I had been sadly in error. I came to love the Peking of those days in a way in which I have never felt for any other place in the world."

Where: IF, Art Museum of the China Millennium Monument
The exhibition is running concurrently with an exhibition of photos of present-day Beijing, taken by fifty foreign photographers from 24 countries and 20 Chinese photographers until June 9.
In 2001 Hedda Morrison, A photographer in Old Peking was translated into Chinese and published here.

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The outdoor swimming pool of the Friendship Hotel is one of the highest standard swimming pools of Beijing. The swimming pool is equipped with 7-meter diving platforms and delicate diving boards. The strict sterilization measures and the circulation system ensure the water is always clean. Morning opening 6: 30-8: 30 RMB30/day, RMB400/month, and RMB1000/quarter. Tel: 68499696



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The Other Side (Bi'an) Diving Club

The club provides the sports fans with professional service besides fun and coolness in the hot summer. Adopting sophisticated foreign training textbooks and equipment, the club provides professional training such as the swimming and diving courses and organizes diving tours home and abroad. With the internationally accepted training method, it takes the trainee only 20 hours to get the CMAS diving certificate which is acknowledged all over the world. The trainees have free and flexible choice as to the training time. The swimming course consists of elementary level, improving level, advanced level, honored guest class and the class paid by the hour. Swimming and diving summer camp. Sign up now! Time for the opening of the courses: the early April. The trainee can begin the course on signing up at any time. The summer courses begin on 1 June. Course time: 9:00 - 20:00, 7 days a week. Time for signing up: 9:00 - 21:00, 7 days a week. Place for signing up: The Professional Club of the Friendship Hotel (No. 3, Baishiqiao Road, Haidian District, 200 meters south of Renmin University). Tel: 68713790 68713791 68498613 Telex: 68713790 Take buses no. 320, 804, 302 or Yuntong buses no. 104, 105, 205, 106 and get off at Shuang'an Shangchang stop. Or take bus no. 811 or Te 6 and get off at Renming Daxue stop.



北京彼岸潜水俱乐部是一家专门为体育爱好者提供专业服务的运动休闲俱乐部。在这里您不仅可以体验到夏季游泳的乐趣,还可以获得一些专业训练,您的服务宗旨: 回归自然畅游无边境界并引进先进的器材和教学设备,开设了游泳课程和潜水课程,同时全年组织到全国各地和世界各城市进行潜水旅游。用真正与国际接轨的教学方法使学员经过二、三小时的培训可以获得国际通用的CMAS潜水证书学员根据自己的时间灵活选择上课时间,游泳课程分为初级班、提高班、高级班、贵宾班、计时班。
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Artist Recalls 10 Years of Creation

The Central Academy

of Fine Arts is hosting a retrospective of works by Professor Wei Xiaoming created in the 10 years since he returned to China.

Wei, who teaches at the academy, describes the exhibition as "a review but not a summary." The strong contrast in his work is evident in this solo exhibition. "My creation of art follows two extreme directions," he says, "the imaginary beauty and the intrepid power."

Wei received a Master of Arts from the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, the first Chinese postgraduate in the academy's 300-year history. He returned to China in 1992. Since then, his works have shown a diversity of beauty and power.

Although his studies in Vienna covered

painting, sculpture and architecture, Wei believes any way of expression of plastic art can be the means for an artist to show his or her inner emotion.

"Imagination comes from the heart," he says. In his eyes, life is the root of creation. Wei's works are "always strengthening the tradition and the culture background," said Austrian Ambassador Erich Buttenhauser at

the exhibition opening.

"With each work, Wei Xiaoming becomes more mature and deeper. It is society for which he, empowered by being part of it, speaks his message of love and humanity," commented artist Eva Choung-Fux.

(By Zhang Xiaoxia)

Photo Provided by Wu Jiang

Modeling the 'Hope Shirt'



T-Shirt Brings Hope to Poor Kids

By Zhang Huan

Fashion and art are combined in a project to raise money for Project Hope, a charity that funds the building of schools in poverty stricken rural areas.

The T-shirts, or "Hope Shirts," featuring works by Zhang Dali and Wang Guangyi, two well known contemporary Chinese artists, are on sale at Only's retail outlets in Beijing and Shanghai until the beginning of June.

Zhang, whose "Big Head" graffiti is a familiar sight on walls all over the capital, and Wang, famous for his "Great Criticism"

series of oil paintings, have provided the copyright of their works free of charge. "As members of society, we want to do give something back to society," says Wang.

All money raised will be used by Project Hope, which is administered by the China Youth Development Foundation to build schools in rural China. With the T-shirts retailing for just under 200 yuan, the general manager of Only, the sponsor, Allan Warburg, estimates 300,000 to 500,000 yuan will be raised, enough to build two Hope schools.

Tradition Surpassing the Modern

By Zhang Xiaoxia

The dark bricks of Dongbianmen watchtower are again embracing the artworks of Qing Qing, in an exhibition running until June 9. The success of her solo exhibition three years ago still lingers in the minds of some visitors.

The current exhibition, titled *Qing Qing Is Back*, covers her

is the softest fiber, yet it has an incredible tenacity," she says. In her eyes, the softness and tenacity of tradition also give people hope. In her work *Partnersearch 2000*, personal advertisements are combined with flax. She describes personal advertisements for partners as a symbol of the hopeful.

The works on the issue of cloning create an atmosphere of bitterness. The broken limbs of puppies are a recurring theme. The bitterness is also evident in a poem about cloning;

Science progresses
Humans are being cloned
And the world has finally
Become the same
Sweetness is no longer sweet
Saltiness is no longer salty
Sourness is no longer sour
Bitterness is no longer bitter
You will never feel lonely again
For we are not ourselves.

"The individual elements of Qing Qing's works passionately declares the dejection and angst of their author and their universality declares her moral philosophy," says critic Dong Guangbi. In the eyes of Qing Qing, tradition surpasses the modern.

Chair of Roses
natural materials
Beijing, 2000
Photos by Zhuang Jian



Nude Book Cover Arouses Controversy



By Zhang Huan

A recently published novel titled *Repentance Is Not Salvation* (回头无岸) is arousing fierce disputes among readers and the literati. The controversy centers around not the contents of the book, but the front cover, which features a nude photo of the author.

Li Bo is the first writer in China to illustrate the cover of a book in such a provocative way. Countering the argument that the cover is no more than a publicity stunt, Li says, "I'm a young man hungering for risk, but the novel is a serious literary creation. The cover fits with the story, in which the hero finds 'crude reality' excruciating, and all his ideals and beliefs are 'peeled off.'"

The story itself focuses on the life of a group of young men born in the

1960s and 70s, and how their attempts to realize their self-worth are disappointed by the social reality. These young men have experienced radical social changes and been caught in the crossfire of conflicts between the old and new social orders.

Li wrote the novel at the age of 25, after spending some time wandering around Shenzhen, the first and biggest Special Economic Zone of South China, and main locale of his story. He describes his novel as, "satirical, ambitious, rough and lacking in skills."

Some 10,000 copies have been sold since the book was published one month ago, according to editor Wen He of the China Movie Publishing House, "Compared with the female writers of the same age, his work has distinct features: a style of humor and social criticism."



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Cleaning and maintenance for all kinds of carpet.



Zhu Jia: Our Newspaper Reports

Multimedia replaces the traditional presentation of news. Images of hands typing on a keyboard, rolling subtitles and images of important news stories. The repetition of visual and acoustic language and the multi-dimensional presentation reflects Zhu's "visual concept" of news.



Wang Youshen:

Tang Suit-
Beijing Youth Daily

Tang Suit represents a so called brilliant expression of everything around the artist. The special material emphasizes Wang's unique vision of fashion.



"A newspaper is the record of history. To make this history into the form of a book means merging history into art."

- Jiang Jie

"I record common people's visions of life and imitate the advertisement on the one-eighth of the first page, because I think they are as important as other materials on the first page. It can not only show the various perspectives of common people's lives, but also reflect the close relationship between the news and real life. That is what Beijing Youth Daily works on."

- Shi Yong

"Post box-it carries a strong flavor of history and has a close relationship with the "growing up" of a newspaper. The merging of the post box and the newspaper provides the possibility to witness history'."

- Wang Guangyi

"We believe on behalf of the news."

- Wu Shanzhuan

"When, what, where, who and why; Record, edit, produce, consume and feedback"

- Wang Youshen

"With the newspaper as a special production, 'news' itself has already become a product in the supermarket for all consumers. The reason for this might have something to do with the production mode and course of the news."

- Zhu Jia

Photos by Cui Jun

A Special Feature of Beijing Youth Daily

Exhibition of Media and Art

By Huang Zhuan, the consultant

Media and Art, the modern art exhibition held from May 22 to 25 is not only about 'art.' It concerns the background of our history and society.

Media is the result of the extension of history. We used to simplify it against art, just like the way we either avoid reality or face it. We didn't regard it as part of 'real life.'

The relationship between media and art is an interesting topic. Beijing Youth Daily once held an exhibition called 'Art Exhibition of the New Force', but art and media were separated. It didn't really merge the element of media into art, nor did it vice versa.

But Media and Art is different. Including works by Wang Guangyi, Jiang Jie, Shi Yong, Wu Shanzhuan, Wang Youshen and Zhu Jia, the exhibition is an overall grafting of the two's mutual understanding of life and history. The two work on each other interactively and are supposed to bring out many inspirations.

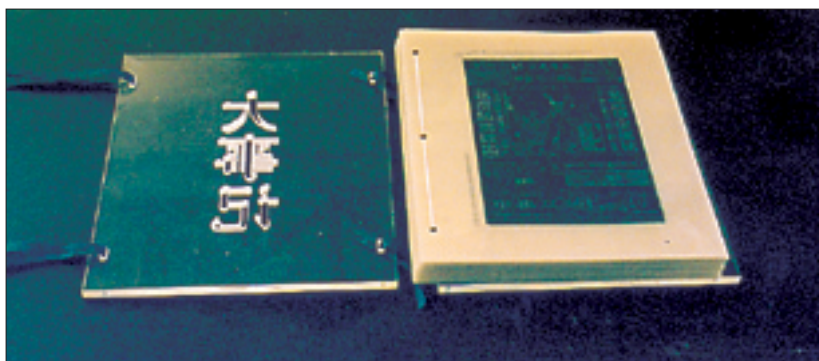
We used to think of media as nothing else but media, with little to do with art. But actually it's part of our experience of life and history, same as art.

When: May 22 to 25
Where: China World Trade Center, Exhibition Hall
Website: www.ynet.com



Wang Guangyi History of a Newspaper

The post boxes represent Beijing Youth Daily's 53-year history. Wang creates a discourse with his work that is immediately recognizable and accessible to all.



Jiang Jie Major Events

She makes news into a sensual thing and the way to read news into a three-dimensional thing. What's more, her Major Events creates a historic record opposite to the concept of news.



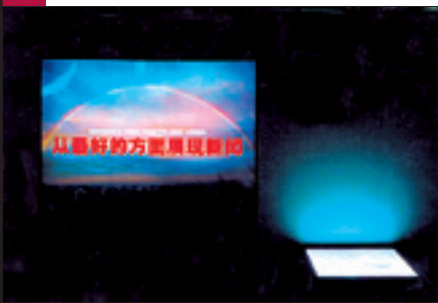
Shi Yong One-eighth of a Page

Shi designs his own advertisements for clothing, food, housing and transportation, to replace those ordinarily taking up one-eighth of Beijing Youth Daily's front page.

Wu Shanzhuan:

Showing A Piece of News
from Its Best Side(s)

The value of news lies in the direct spreading-around of the value.



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6856.9388

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And, we have a unique Chinese name, Tai Xiang La, which means Spicy Thai Restaurant, verbally; and Very Good Smell, phonetically.

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Tasty Xinjiang Treats

By Miao Yajie

There are no gimmicks here. It's not roomy. There are no expensive decorations. Tianshan Restaurant (天山食府) concentrates on serving tasty Xinjiang food at a reasonable price.

The boss, chefs and some of the waiters and waitresses are Uygurs, ensuring a genuine local flavor. Some dishes are unforgettable and it's easy to name three or four — special fried mutton chop (fengwei yangpai 风味羊排), fried crusty pancake with mutton (nang bao rou 馕包肉), stewed mutton served with one's hand (shou zhua rou 手抓肉), chicken on a big plate (da pan ji 大盘鸡) or chicken served on small plate (xiao pan ji 小盘鸡).

The dishes here are not as oily as other Xinjiang food. The proprietress Mihiriban Tudi whose name in English means 'favor from God' also strongly recommended their crusty bread (nang 馕).

The baking of nang in Xinjiang is a craft passed down from fathers to sons.

And a good nang baker would have twice the salary of a regular chef. All the nangs look alike and taste similar when served dry, however the secret of the bakers is revealed when small pieces of nang were soaked in soup. Every nang baker own his special formula besides flour, yeast powder, salt, and sesame.

Another Xinjiang cuisine special, rice cooked with mutton, carrots, raisins and eaten with hands (shou zhua fan 手抓饭), unfortunately, is not of the best taste compared with other dishes in the restaurant. Since to cook one pot of the mixed rice need six hours, it was cooked early in the morning, and heated by microwave oven whenever ordered, thus the chewy texture and some of the taste was damaged. For those who still want to have a try, remember they don't serve it on Sunday.

Thirty to fifty yuan is enough for two sensible eaters, and four can eat well for under 100 yuan.

One thing does need improving: the toilet room is way too small.

Add: Tianshan Restaurant, 46 A, Di'anmen Dongdajie, west of the Huangchenggen Site Park (皇城根遗址公园).

Open: 24hours.

Tel: 8403-5786.

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524. Email: shopping@ynet.com.



Photos by Miao Yajie

Xinjiang crusty bread — nang (馕)

ANGELS ON THE BOULEVARD

By Priscilla

The secret of this store's success: prices. "The dolls are reasonably priced because we get them direct from a factory producing dolls for export in Jiangsu province," says the manager of Beijing Sunny Angels Gifts Shop Liu Yuan. "The prices are almost equivalent to wholesale."

Priced 15-280 yuan, they vary from 8-30 inches, with the majority priced in the middle 60-80 yuan. They come in different styles: four seasons dolls, country series, Victoria series, wedding series and the shop's own brand: "Sunny Angels". Their cotton, linen or wool dresses can be thrown in the washing machine.

"The prices of similar dolls in big shopping departments are two or three times higher than the prices here," claims Liu.

The shop also specializes in wooden toy cars, mini furniture, wooden combs and candles. Having a history of 1,500 years, Changzhou combs are known as one of the "Big Eight" hair decorations of ancient China and something of a household name in China.

The Chinese little leaf box wood comb series features Chinese legends and folklore including *the Dream of the Red Mansion*, *Legend of White Snake*, *Fu Lu Shou* (Happiness, Wealth and Longevity) and of course the *Journey to the West*. A set of three combs costs 42 yuan. Four cost 48 yuan.

Add: Beijing Sunny Angels Gifts Shop, 40 West Changan Dajie, Xicheng District, opposite Beijing Telegraph Office (北京电报大楼). The owner has already another store in Beitapingzhuang (北太平庄) and plans two more in Mishi Dajie (米市大街) and the Cuiwei Shopping Store (翠微百货). **Open:** 10am-9:30pm. **Tel:** 6605-5794, 13901107195.



Photos by Li Shuzhuan



Photo by Chen Shuyi

Cotton Temptations

By Liang Hongling

This simple but tastefully furnished store sells primitive ornaments, cotton clothing and linen.

Bu Yi Qing Shang's (布衣青裳) clothing is hand woven or woven using a traditional weaving machine. It is colored by natural dyes, made from juice extracted from vegetables and fruits, for instance, pomegranate.

Cotton handicrafts include sofa cushions, pillowcases, tablecloths, cotton blankets and purses. Grey shirts made of Nepalese cloth dark blue and brown stripes catch the eye.

"Almost all the female customers are fascinated by these cute fruits," says manager Wang Zhengyi.

Handmade cotton apples, bananas, cabbages and tomatoes sit on a shelf. Necklaces of stone beads are displayed on the wall opposite the fruits. The fantastic shapes of bamboo tubes, joint and roots makes for elegant pen containers or flower vases. Bat-shaped ornaments hang up side on the wall. In Chinese, "bat" (蝙蝠) and "fortune" (福) share the same pronunciation "fu". Thus, traditionally, a bat is a symbol of fortune and blessing.

Add: Third Floor, Beijing Hi-tech Convention & Exhibition Center, 48 Xisanhuan Lu. **Open:** 10 am-10 pm. **Tel:** 6216-1655.

Hanky Store Brings Out Inner Child

By Li Dan

When I was very young, my mother used to place a handkerchief in my pocket before school. It was always fresh, clean and fragrant. The handkerchiefs seem to slowly fade from memory in favor of paper towels.

But I miss the soft and sweet feeling it gave me when I was young. Try to imagine, before work in the morning, someone loving putting a clean handkerchief with a sweet scent in your pocket. Somehow, the day seems lighter.

Finding handkerchiefs in our paper napkin age has proven not so easy, although I have tried. Then I found Jiangsu Baihua in Oriental Plaza.

The store has four main categories: man, woman, young girl and baby, explains owner Xie Qiangguo. They are priced 3-60 yuan. The smallest handkerchiefs are no bigger than the palm of an adult hand.

"The baby handkerchiefs have become young mothers' favorites when shopping," said Xie. "Our babies like making 'bubbles' every day which finds moms always in a mess."

He suggests mothers buy about a dozen baby handkerchiefs.

"Our products are of amazing cartoons and colors to catch the babies' attention. Also they'll be-



Photo by Chen Shuyi

come something to copy when baby learns to paint."

Indeed, apart from young girl's handkerchief, baby kerchiefs are the second best sellers in the store. Xie argues his handkerchiefs are environmentally friendly, although others might argue washing them involves phosphorus powder and plentiful water.

"The handkerchief is not environmentally polluting like a paper towel made from thousands of trees," he said.

Add: Jiansu Baihua (江苏百花), 1 Dongchang'an Avenue, Oriental Plaza Underground Shopping Mall, BB28.

Open: 9:30 am-9:30 pm.

Tel: 8518-6142.

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Registration Number Hottest Ticket in Town

By Wang Dandan

Britney Spears is coming to Beijing. Or perhaps it's Wang Fei? The long line outside the sales office suggests at least the Eagles must be coming to Worker's Stadium.

During research for another story, a *Beijing Today* reporter stumbled across this strange real estate phenomenon. It is known in Chinese as "apartment grab" (抢房).

That is to say, when an apartment complex opens, buyers line up outside the sales office to buy a registration number, that is the first stake in owning an apartment. It is rumored some even hire a third person to wait outside overnight.

This surprised *Beijing Today*. Apartments are not cabbages, after all.

To get a cheap one, you wouldn't expect people to line up in the fall (when they are famously cheap in Beijing). Perhaps Beijingers are so rich they just don't know how to spend their money wisely.

Or perhaps these apartments are truly amazing bargains. Or perhaps Britney Spears is coming to Beijing. Whatever. An investigation was called for.

Sleuth begins digging

Pretending to be a buyer, the reporter returned to dig. In real estate, it transpires this practice is quite common and is actually a kind of risk-free speculation.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained, as the saying goes. These insider operations may not necessarily break the law, but they certainly challenge the market rules. The "apartment grab" lines principally come about for three reasons:

First and most obviously, the apartment complex is in a good location, earning worthy plaudits and clearly of a satisfactory design. In other words, the place has potential.

Second, some buyers, who do not aim to live in the apartments, buy a registration number at the sales office with a plan to re-sell the registration, later at a profit.

That is because at the time when registration numbers are issued – before the sales certificate is issued – apartments are usually relatively cheaper.

The buyers contact the sales people to find out when the registration numbers will go up for sale and buy them on the day. After the sales license is approved, buyers can sell the registration number on to a new owner at a high price.

Third, apartment sales people buy up registration numbers. Generally, there is a grace period granted by the developer to their staff to buy apartments.

That is to say, sales people can take advantage of this period to buy registration for apartments with a good design and location. A typical deposit for a registration number is 30,000 yuan.

Thus a salesman who has 100,000 yuan can buy three registration numbers for apartments in the best location. Then when a customer wants to buy this apartment, the salesman can make a nice extra profit out of selling the registration number to the customer.

The salesman personally profits from the deal and the profits are much higher than his meager salary.

And if nobody buys, the salesman



can get back his deposit from the developer and suffer no losses at all.

Speculators profit

As salespeople catch on to the activity, the speculation worsens and the apartment pricing becomes increasingly warped.

Because of this profiteering, some developers are trying to restrict the buying and selling of registration numbers.

Grabbing apartments is becoming one of the biggest games in town on the Beijing real estate market.

So nowadays even before a project officially starts to sell, no good apartments can be found. If a buyer wants to buy a good apartment, he must haggle with the speculators mentioned above.

Lawyer speaks

"It is not exactly shock news in the Beijing real estate market that people buy up registration numbers and then

sell them on," says Lei Qiping, a lawyer with Beijing Deqin Law Firm.

"It's something that needs to be regulated, especially if this speculation increases the risks of buying.

"Regulations should introduce an element of risk into these adventures, removing risk-free deposits."

For example, if a buyer of a registration number doesn't buy the apartment, the developer should retain a certain percentage of the deposit.

"As for salespeople who take advantage of their position to buy up registration numbers for apartments with a good location, it is necessary for the company to enforce its own regulations."

If a salesman is caught, the developer should give him salary dismissal.

"However, this is only the penalty. The company should prevent this activity from occurring in the first place."

Property Management Company Not Responsible for Burgled Apartments

By Hydrie
Dear editor:
My house was burgled several days ago and when I asked for compensation from a property management company, they refused.

As I have paid property management fees, does it mean I have a contract relationship with the company and he has to compensate for the loss?
Bob

Dear Bob:

The property management company should arrange security guards to patrol the blocks. Legally speaking, even if there is a guard, the property management company is not responsible for the burgled apartments. There were cases last year in Beijing when customers sued the property management company for losses from burgled apartments, but lost in the end.

Developer Rolls Out Carpet Measure

By Wang Dandan

For the first time in Beijing, a developer has decided to sell apartments by carpet area, not construction area.

Fengshang International seeks to avoid the disputes caused by misunderstandings between buyers and developers about apartment areas and make clear the real apartment area.

As early as 1996, Beijing issued the Notice on Selling Apartment by Carpet Area, ordering developers not to sell apartments by construction area.

But developers refused to follow the notice. The reason is simple. If the apartment is sold by carpet area, it is difficult to take account of communal areas.

Whereas if sold by construction area, the developer can in-

clude this shared area and profit from the total tally.

For buyers it might seem confusing to be given three figures for their apartment: the construction area, the carpet area and the shared area. Thus developers stick to selling apartments by construction area.

Developers in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chongqing already tried out the carpet approach with favorable results.

Buyers can do the math themselves. If the numbers don't add up, the buyer can raise the issue with the developer.

Although it's a useful measure, it still gives rise to other problems. For example, the buyer may wish to pay a property management fee measured by carpet area, not the construction area.



Bank Lends to Apartment Bidders

By Wang Dandan

Jinyuanzhuang Apartment Complex will on Sunday auction 115 apartments to be bought with bank assistance.

Jinyuanzhuang Apartments were also auctioned on March 30. But payment could be made in cash, without bank loans. Only 23 new apartments out of 138 were sold.

After a month of operations, Beijing Auction Online Company finally received the assistance of the Construction Bank of China. The bank will offer loans to buyers who buy auctioned apartments. The company is also working on introducing more apartments for auction.

Bank Loan Problem Bamboozles Buyer

By Wang Dandan



Legal Aid

A reader faxed *Beijing Today* to say he is now annoyed about an apartment he bought several months ago. According to the contract, Lai Bin, the reader, should have moved into the apartment by the end of last year.

However, as the bank loan was still not granted, he still can't move into his new apartment.

Buyer: developer error

The developer introduced Lai to the real estate agency and the developer should be responsible for the loss. Lai signed a contract with a developer last October and bought an apartment of 100 square meters.

As Lai needs a bank loan, the developer introduced a real estate agency, authorized by the developer, to be responsible for helping Lai obtain a bank loan. The developer paid a commission to the agency.

Lai then gave all the documents to the agency to obtain the loan. However, by April, the loan had still not been approved and some documents had been lost by the agency.

When Lai finally obtained the loan at the beginning of May, he was informed by the developer he should pay a property management fee from February this year. Lai didn't agree.

"It was the delay of the loan which delayed my moving into the

new apartment," he said. "And it is the developer who paid commission to the real estate agency.

When there is a problem, it is the agency and the developer who should discuss how to resolve it."

Developer: buyer error

The developer argues they delivered the apartment on time, and the delay moving into the new apartment is not the developer's responsibility.

Only when all the documents are approved, including the bank loan, can the developer accept the moving-in notice of the buyer.

It is Lai and the agency who should expedite the loan approval, not the developer, said the developer.

Then why from February should Lai pay the property management fee?

According to the developer, as they delivered the apartment on time by the end of last year, for more than 40 days the developer paid the property management fees. From February all buyers – not only Lai – should pay the property management fee themselves.

Lawyer: agent error

Lai should pay the fee from February. It is not developer's mistake such as not delivering the apartment on time.

The problems happened with the real estate agency and Lai can sue the real estate agency for compensation.

The Only Way is Up

Residential and Retail Market Review Outlook

Beijing

By Liu Wenlong

Apartment

The influx of multinational companies is expected to accelerate in the coming years after WTO and winning the 2008 Olympic bid. Infrastructure, urban renewal and high-tech projects as well as environmentally-friendly schemes should attract professionals and expatriates into China.

Demand for Grade A offices and high-end residences should thus be stimulated. It is widely anticipated more multinational companies will move into Beijing and assist in driving up demand in the real estate market in 2002.

Since the beginning of 2001, the implementation of tax reductions of over 50 percent on rental income for landlords has stimulated investment in the residential market. Wealthy Chinese and expatriates actively sought out luxury residences.

The result is leasing activity has increased, especially in the service apartment sector. Meanwhile, there is growing interest from foreigners in purchasing prime apartments averaging 150 square meters in Chaoyang district.

Landlords continue to offer competitive rental packages including club membership and utilities to attract tenants to the luxury residential market. Chaoyang district remained popular and enjoyed a stable client base and rental level.

High-end apartments/villas with two bedrooms were popular in Chaoyang and Shunyi districts. Overall vacancy rates in high-end apartments and villas declined from 20% in 2000 to 10% in 2001.

China World Apartments, Lee Garden and Lido Apartments, in particular, showed substantial decreases in vacancy.

New supply for the sale and lease of luxury apartments and villas to foreigners in 2001 and 2002 is estimated at 4,653 units. The majority -- 70 percent -- are located in Chaoyang.

Average monthly rents for economy apartments remained stable at US\$14.1 (RMB117) per square meter, middle US\$19.6 (RMB163) per square meters and luxury US\$27.0 (RMB224) per square meter in 2001.

Middle-end villas achieved monthly rents of US\$18.8 (RMB156) per square meter and high end stood at US\$26.9 (RMB223) per square meter. There was a growing demand for top quality service apartments from expatriates and wealthy Chinese families.

Consequently, average monthly rents for top service apartments escalated to US\$28.0 (RMB232) per square meter in 2001. Average prices for prime residences stabilized at US\$1,600 (RMB13, 280) per square meter in 2001. In Chaoyang, prices for prestige apartments/villas topped US\$2,000 (RMB16, 600) per square meter.

During 2001, demand for retail space mainly came from supermarkets, hypermarkets, food and beverage, entertainment, pharmacy, home furnishings and fashion. Hypermarkets such as Trust Mart, Hualian, Wal-Mart and PriceSmart have all committed space.

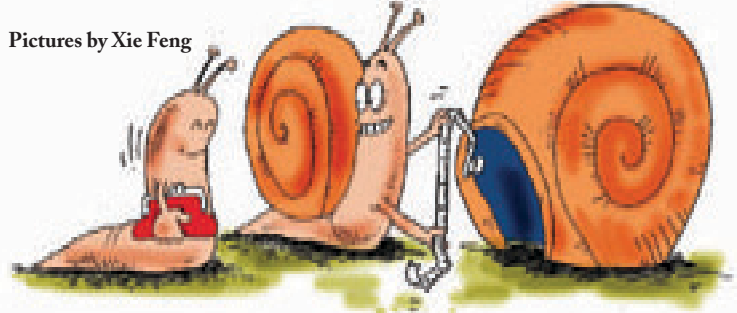
Total retail supply in 2001 reached a historic high of 629,397 square meters. The largest development was Shining World (220,000 square meters) on Lianguang Lu.

Total department store stock in 2001 was 821,075 square meters. New department stores included the Pacific Department Store (47,000 square meter) in Pacific Century Place, Pretty Shopping Center and Home Furnishings (22,000 square meters) in Sunshine Plaza, and Ito-Yokado (21,000 square meters) in Qianhe Homeland of the Asian Games Village.

More international upmarket retailers will open shops in Beijing. Increasingly, prime retail property will need to be of excellent quality and provide more comprehensive amenities to attract tenants. Retail premises in demand will be those in a good location with excellent interior design and professional property management.

However, there are only few retail premises in Beijing up to this standard: the Palace Hotel and China World Shopping Mall, for example.

Pictures by Xie Feng



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Performances



The Merchant of Venice

Peking Opera

Farewell My Concubine, Monkey King Playing Tricks on Six Thieves. **Where:** Zheng Yi Ci Temple Opera House. **When:** 7:30pm. **Tel:** 1362 1195714 (English service). **E-mail:** beijingopera@yahoo.com

Drama: The Merchant of Venice

By British Royal Shakespeare Company Drama Troupe. The RSC is one of the world's best-known theatre ensembles. A fascinating study of justice, mercy and devotion, *The Merchant of Venice* is one of Shakespeare's most famous plays. This features Loveday Ingram in her directorial debut, and acclaimed actor Ian Bartholomew as the lead character Shylock. **Where:** Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie. **When:** May 23-26, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-600 yuan, 1000 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 6403-1613, 6406-8888.

Food

Indian Food Promotion

Guest chef Richard R. from Bombay presents Indian dishes, such as chicken badami kashmiri, fish Punjabi, mango cassi, paneer tikka, tandoori gobi. **Where:** Cafe Renaissance, 7F Jing Guang New World Hotel. **When:** May 20-31. **Fee:** 88 yuan per person for lunch and 98 yuan for dinner. **Tel:** 6597-8888.



Indian food

Outings

Great Wall Spur Wall Walk

Degree of difficulty: 3+. **Where:** Huairou County, north of Beijing. **When:** May 19. **Route:** It is actually a spur of the main Great Wall. Start from a valley followed by open trail up the Wall. The high point is a perfect lunch spot. After about an hour, get off and take one of the trails down the mountain. **How to join:** E-mail bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Camp Adventure

Sponsored by the American Employees Association and Western Academy of Beijing, open to all expats kids, 4-12 years old. Register now. **When:** July 1 - August 9. **Tel:** 6532-3431 ext. 5094. **E-mail:** aeabeij@eastnet.com.cn

Weather

Friday Cloudy
May 17 Max: 25C. Min: 15C.

Saturday
May 18

Clear
Max: 29C. Min: 17C.

Sunday
May 19

Clear to cloudy
Max: 29C. Min: 17C.

Monday
May 20

Cloudy to overcast,
light rain
Max: 28C. Min: 16C.

Tuesday
May 21

Clear to cloudy
Max: 27C. Min: 15C.

Wednesday
May 22

Cloudy to overcast
Max: 25C. Min: 17C.

Thursday
May 23

Cloudy
Max: 25C. Min: 17C.

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By Priscilla / Lydia

Music



Soprano: Janice Jackson

Soprano Janice Jackson --The Song's Progress

Graduated from the University of Victoria (Canada) in 1986, Jackson continued her studies at the Utrecht Conservatoire. She has performed more than 70 world premieres, many written specifically for her, such as *Traveling*. Her latest solo concert "Out There and Beyond" consists of true vocal acrobatic works to pure theater. Program: Arias from *Porgy and Bess*, *Ludions*, *Summoning Dawn — the Rubythroated Dreaming*, *Lautre face*, *Private Collection*, *Ce que vit Kenjeko depuis la colline de Khabaravosk*, *Child's Play*. **Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** May 19, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-280 yuan. **Tel:** 6559-8306, 6559-8308.

2002 Gateway to Music Series

Classical Wind and Percussion Chinese Concert, by Chinese Music Orchestra of China Opera House and Dance Ensemble. Instruments: flute, suona, bawu. Program: Herdsmen's New Song, Fishing Tune, Tiger Sharpening its Teeth. **Where:** Forbidden

City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** May 19, 2pm. **Admission:** 10-60 yuan. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

Experience Classics Series IV

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** May 22, 23, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 50-500 yuan. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

Music at Get Lucky

Concert organized by Heavy Rock Magazine & Anniversary Activity of Ming Jie Band. **When:** May 18. Heavy Music Festival. Bands: Bing Yong, Ye Yang Guan Tou, Zhou Cheng, CMCB. **When:** May 24. Band: Zhan Fu. **When:** May 25. **Where:** Get Lucky Bar, east of the south gate of Dui Wai Jiangmao. **Tel:** 6429-9109.

Music at CD Cafe

Bands: Clear, Sick Doctor, Zhou Fenglin. **Where:** CD Cafe, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 23, 9pm. **Tel:** 1301 1886112. **Web:** www.ddup.net

Colorized Rhino, Convenience Store, Candy Gun 0: May 24. Brain Failure, The End of the World, Moppet. **When:** May 26. **Where:** CD Cafe. **Tel:** 6501-8877 ext. 3032.

Music at the Youxi Bar

Six bands from home and abroad live performance. **Where:** 19 Anjialou, Liangmaqiaolu, 1km east of the Lufthansa Shopping City, in an alley on the north side of the road. **When:** May 18, evening. **Tel:** 8456-2899.

Cui Jian Talks about Chinese Rock Music

Cui Jian, "father of Chinese rock", will show up at the CD Cafe to meet expatriates in Beijing. He will talk about his past and present, as well as his and others' Chinese rock music. **Where:** CD Cafe, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 22, 7-9pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.

Exhibitions

Feelings of Old Beijing

Water & ink paintings, engravings and wood sculptures show the scenery of the Forbidden City, old hutongs, courtyards, gardens and architecture. **Where:** Hualai Gallery, 74 Donghuanmen Dajie, Dongcheng District.

When: May 18-21, 1-9pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6523-8128.

Solo Exhibition by Xue Liang

Xue is good at landscape and flower-and-bird genre paintings. Because of his traditional painting technique, his literary accomplishments and his sense of beauty, he is acclaimed as the "Genius of Jiangnan". His works are full of spirituality and imagination. **Where:** West Exhibition Hall of Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** May 18-28, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6523-3320.

Abstract Oil Paintings

By Bo Yun, Zhang Jianbo. Bo Yun is good at explaining traditional things by modern installation art. Zhang's works are full of sharp-compared colors. **Where:** Creation Gallery, north exit of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 17-23, 10am-7pm. **Opening reception:** May 17, 3-6pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6506-7570.

Solo Exhibition by Liu Fuchun

Where: 2F, East Gallery, Deshengmen Watchtower, Bei'erhuanlu, Xicheng District. **When:** May 18-June 31, 9am-5pm (Closed on Mon.). **Admission:** 2 yuan. **Tel:** 8201-4962.

Kuwait Plastics Arts Exhibition

Where: International Art Palace, 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** May 17-29, 9am-6pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6513-3388 ext. 1207/8.

Collections Exhibition

Chinese paintings collected by the New Art Center in recent years. **Where:** New Art Center, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** till May 31, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6528-9103.

Scenery of Old Beijing & Present Beijing — Old and Present Photos Exhibition

Where: Modern Hall, 1F, Chinese Millennium Monument Museum. **When:** till June 10. **Tel:** 6851-3322 ext. 6808.

Lin Tianmiao New Works: Focus

Lin's latest work is the "Focus" series, a haunting series of headshots, 1.8m high, covered with Lin's signature materials of cotton balls, human hair, and braided twine. One of China's most better-known contemporary woman artists, Lin resided in New York City for 10 years and now lives and works in Beijing. **Where:** Courtyard

Gallery, 95 Donghuanmen Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** May 19-July 31. **Opening reception:** May 19, 2-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6526-8882. **Web:** www.courtyard-gallery.com

Future on Science

This is an exhibition for the high-tech expo in May. Five parts of this exhibition — exhibition boards, models exhibition, scenery exhibition, seven theme days during the exhibition, and lectures. **Where:** Chinese Millennium Monument, A9 Fuxinglu, Haidian District. **When:** May 18-24. **Tel:** 6851-3322 ext. 6808.

Breath of World — Yi Bin & Zeng Hui's Painting Exhibition

Where: New Millennium Art Gallery, Diyang Tower, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 18-28, 9am-7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8453-6193, 1391 1166261.

Sports

Latinos - Beijing's Big New Salsa Club

With music every night, food (mainly Latin and Italian dishes) available at all times and two drinks for the price of one from 6-8 pm every day. Latin drinks: Cuban mojitos, Brazilian caipirinhas, Mexican tequila or their own special: La Bomba. **Add:** entrance to Chaoyang Park's bar street, next to the Big Easy. **Open:** 11am till late. **Tel:** 6507-9898. **Web:** www.latinoschina.com **E-mail:** info@latinoschina.com

Palm Springs Cup 10K Run

Organized by Palm Springs International Apartment and Chaoyang Park, this running activity is only for expats in Beijing. Also post race breakfast, goodie bags. **Where:** Chaoyang Park, 1 Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 25, assembling time: 7-7:45am;

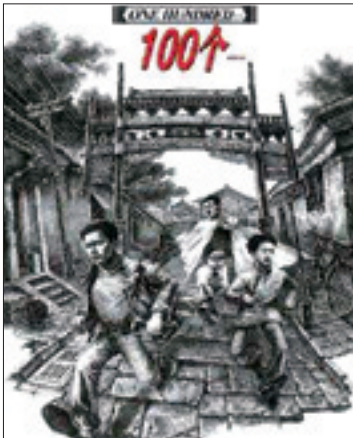
start time: 8am at car park in front of the Big Easy. Deadline for registration: May 22. Limited to 500 runners only. **Prizes:** 1st: prize: 1,000 yuan, trophy; 2nd: 500 yuan and trophy; 3rd: 300 yuan and trophy. Best creative costumes team: trophy and other prizes. **Fee:** 50 yuan each. **Tel:** 6532-5511 ext. 201 (Jackie Yu).

2002 Community Cup Football Tournament

The participating teams are decided, as Ogilvy & Mather, Irish Team, Sexy FC, Italian Team, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Evolution Gym, Grey Worldwide, Xianzai (China), Schieder, Freshfields, Kerr McGee and maybe more. **Where:** Purple Jade Villas, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 26. **Tel:** 8404-3691, 1368 3098784.



Movies



100 Times (Yi Bai Ge)

Directed by Teng Huatao, 2002, 90 minutes, starring Cui Lin, Chi Jia, Fu Biao. With English subtitles. Two ordinary boys decide to pay a great price to achieve a great goal. Their only dream was to become police officers. They take the examination, but are unsuccessful. One of their hutong neighbors tells them if they can catch 100 thieves the police would surely want them on the force. And that's when they begin to learn about failure and commitment. **Where:** Cherry Lane Movies, 40 Liangmaqiaolu. **When:** May 24, 8pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461-5318/9.

Watching & Talking

Discussion with Chen Danqing about the movie, *Wood Shoes Tree*. **Where:** The Loft, 4 Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 19, 7-9pm. The seminar begins from 9pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6501-7501.

Stromboli, terra di Dio (Stromboli)

Karen (Ingrid Bergman), a young woman from the Baltic countries marries fisherman Antonio to escape from a detention camp. But she can't conform to a life of seclusion in Antonio's village, Stromboli, an island in the Mediterranean threatened by a volcano. The first

of the five movies of the couple Rossellini-Bergman, and the first of the so-called "trilogy of loneliness", it aroused controversy and scandal. Directed by Robert Rossellini, 1949. Italian with French subtitles. **Where:** Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'er jie. **When:** May 23, 7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532-2187.



Breaking the Waves

Directed by Lars von Trier, 1996, 159 minutes. Starring Emily Watson, Stellan Skarsgard, Katrin Cartlidge. Danish film director Lars von Trier makes deeply personal and technically brilliant films with an international appeal. *Breaking the Waves* is a compulsive melodrama that received both public and critical acclaim, whose main elements are sex and religion. **Where:** Firenze, beside the south gate of Ritan Park, go north from the Yong'anli Subway Station. **When:** May 19. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8526-6308.

Danish director: Lars von Trier



Parties



The Moving Cheese — First Cheese Party In 2002

Includes premiere of first cheese film *Made In China* from 9pm. Tech floor: DJ Michael Fresh (Swiss), DJ De La Bass (Swiss), DJ Yang Bing (China). Lounge floor: DJ Weng Weng (China), DJ You Dai (China), M Selektor (France).

Where: Firenze Bar, south gate of Ritan Park. **When:** May 18. **Admission:** 30 yuan. **Tel:** 8562-2308, 8562-2309.



Romantic May Night

DJ Charles Sieging is known as "the most intelligent DJ", and he is the co-

operative partner of Technasia in Europe. He has made a remix for electric music, combining minimal techno and funky house. **Where:** Neo Lounge (99), 99 Xingfuyicun Zhonglu, go north from Vogue, around the corner, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 18, 10pm-May 19.

Young Professionals Happy Hour

Cocktail Tasting. All cocktails are based on Rougemont juices. Sixteen different mixes and cocktails and people can choose 10 to drink. Food available. **Where:** Hidden Tree, South Sanlitun Bar Street. **When:** May 22, from 6:30pm. **Admission:** 125 yuan, 150 yuan at the door. (Hidden Tree). **Tel:** 6509-3642.

Professional Women Networking Luncheon

SOS International will host this month's activity. Dr. Catherine Hsu will conduct

a presentation on how stress affects our lives and provide simple tips on how we can make our lives a little less stressful. English language. Make a reservation first.

Where: Capital Club, 50F Capital Mansion, 6 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 24, 12pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan each. **Tel:** 8486-2225.

Latin Party in Three Level Boat

DJ of Latin music. Tropical drinks: mojitos, Cuba libres, jose cuervo tequila shooters and beer (10 yuan). **Where:** Harbor Boat in the Beijing Canal (across the street from Schiller's 2). **When:** May 31. **Tel:** 1366 1216354 (Jocy).

Book-collection



For Forgotten Commemoration — Eight Model Revolutionary Opera Cartoons on Sale

1,000 sets of children's picture-story books of the eight model operas: White Haired Girl, Red Detachment of Women, The Red Lantern with Xuan paper, and with 24,280 yuan books of

collector cards. The painters are on the spot to sign their names for the buyers. They can also obtain a set of video CDs for these operas. **Where:** Beijing Jingju Cultural Bookstore, Keyuan Book City, 15 Fuxinglu, west of the CCTV Tower, Gongzhufen. **When:** May 17-19. **Tel:** 6852-2990, 1390 1151226.



Lecture

Lecture on Taoism and its classic "Tao Te Ching"

The book was written over 2,000 years ago and contains wisdom and insight into life, human relationships, government and universal wisdom. It remains as relevant today as when it was written. The English-language lecture will be hosted by Xu Kangsheng, 64, professor of the Philosophy Department of Beijing University. He specializes in Lao Zi. **Where:** Bamboo Garden Hotel, south of Gulou Dajie Subway Station. **When:** May 26, 2:30-5pm. **Admission:** 40 yuan. **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.

By Jiang Zhong

Shops and restaurants with a history of over 100 years in Beijing somehow have managed to avoid the tragic fate of many of the city's ancient temples. The secret? They offered popular and useful goods or dishes that proved indispensable over the years.

The ancient emperors honored their exclusive suppliers. Those shops outside the Forbidden City who earned appointments to the emperor enjoyed obvious advantages over their competitors.

But at the same time, their family risked slaughter if the emperors were enraged by a shoddy product. Sometimes the emperors forgave when a dodgy product arrived. But sometimes, they were not so forgiving...with dire consequences for the owner.

After 1949, rather than destroyed them, the People's Government honored these famous shops and restaurants as "China's Time-Honored Brands". VIPs frequented these shops and restaurants. Most are scattered along the alleys around Da Shi La and Qianmen.

All feature a name board, the calligraphy of imperial VIPs hanging over the doors and a government-issued bronze plaque. Certain employees of the shops or restaurants are responsible for burnishing the bronze plaque daily. Certification from the government has, and will, guarantee their success in the modern market.

There are 12 such shops or restaurants around Qianmen. Careful tourists might spot the 'time-honored brands' if they notice bold calligraphy. Some shops also try to fake an imperial connection and so it's helpful to know the list of time-honored brands in advance of your day trip.

A visit to these time-honored shops or restaurants should be a must for a tour of Da Shi La. However, don't miss out on the fakers either.

Red Lights and Rickshaws

The En Yuan Ju (恩元居) Muslim Restaurant, also with its name carved on a plaque over the door, has stood in Beijing for over 100 years.

Zheng Shuliang, owner of the restaurant, inherited nothing more than the buildings and the menu from the old restaurant. Zheng Shuliang, owner of the restaurant, inherited nothing more than the buildings and the menu from the old restaurant. His limited knowledge of the history is as follows:

Two brothers Zi moved the restaurant from Hejian, Hebei Province to Beijing some 100 years ago. At first, it served as a brothel for visitors to the Da Li Hutong (alley), one of eight famous red-light districts of old Beijing. In January 1956, the restaurant moved to its current location: No. 120, Mei Shi Jie, a quiet alley at Da Shi La.

Li Yunfu, 81, has been visiting the restaurant for 66 years and he has got the good stuff

"In old Beijing, rickshaw drivers usually gathered at Da Shi La, because this district featured the largest number of shops, restaurants and warehouses," said Li.

"And En Yuan Ju was always the lunch hangout. *Chao ge da* (炒疙瘩 fried flour ball with mutton slices) was their favorite. They thought that the hard flour ball was a great help for building up a

Leisurely Getaway



Gaudy advertising adorns the time-honored silk shop

Photos by Zhao Shiya

Shopping for an Emperor in Da Shi La

A Beijing Life Day Tour



The bad old days

Photo by Albert Dutertre

strong body."

But rickshaw drivers back then of course were never allowed to have a meal in the restaurant because of their humble status.

"They wouldn't have wanted to have lunch in the restaurant anyway," Li said. "My father usually took me to the restaurant for lunch. I saw the drivers squatting down on the ground with big dishes of *chao ge da* in hand."

Rickshaws used to line the street outside the restaurant, he

said. "Soy sauce and vinegar were added in exaggerated amounts to stimulate their juices and their appetite that had been so compromised by their overwhelming fatigue."

"When a guest arrived, they had to eat up their meal as fast as possible. It might be more proper to say they 'drank' their meal. In minutes, the dishes were empty."

"He left the dish where he had been eating where he also left money for the dish. The wait-

ers would take the dish back with the coppers," said Li, then began filling his mouth with a spoonful of flour balls.

Shao mai (烧卖 steamed dumpling with dough gathered at the top) is another Beijing favorite.

Dumpling Destination

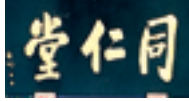
Du Yi Chu (都一处) Restaurant standing at 36 Qianmen Dajie has served *shao mai* for some 250 years.

The Emperor Qianlong once returned to Beijing after a secret inspection of Tongzhou County on the spring festival eve of 1753. Hungry, he tried to find a restaurant for supper. He searched around the Qianmen area only to find the Wang restaurant open. The dishes didn't disappoint him. He later titled the restaurant "Du Yi Chu" (the only restaurant in the capital open on spring festival eve).

Teashops

People of old Beijing drank tea after each meal and so teashops take up a large section of time-honored brands. Zhang Yi Yuan (张一元) Teashop offers an ideal place for learning about Beijing tea culture.

Threading through the crowds on the first floor, shop assistants with hair covered by green tea particles catch the eye. A booth on the second floor blocks out the noise.



Tea sets adorn the booth.

Look out of the old fashioned window to the busy crowds and gaudy

old buildings below. The tea here will not compromise a merry mood.

Other attractions

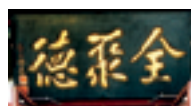
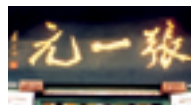
Other time-honored brands like Quan Ju De (roast duck), Tong Ren Tang (drugstore), Nei Lian Sheng (shoe store), Rui Fu Xiang and Qian Xiang Yi (silk shop) are also worth a short visit.

The Guang De Lou Opera Theatre opposite Nei Lian Sheng offers Peking Opera performances, an amazing end to one-day tour of Da Shi La.

Not a native brand of Beijing, Tian Jin Gou Bu Li also sells *bao zi* (包子 steamed stuffed buns) on the street. Try buns here if the *chao ge da* and *shao mai* don't satisfy your appetite completely.

Day tour of "time-honored brands"

Du Yi Chu and Gou Bu Li both offer a tradi-



tional Beijing breakfast menu. If an ordinary Beijinger's daily life attracts you, then the breakfast should not be omitted in the travel plan.

After breakfast try a cup of tea in Zhang Yi Yuan (50-200 yuan). Books on Chinese tea culture are available here (some in English).

Then tour shopping at Nei Lian Sheng, Rui Fu Xiang and Qian Xiang Yi for at least two hours.

Chao ge da and other Muslim dishes of En Yuan Ju are suitable for lunch. If *chao ge da* is not enough, better to try one more with beef slices or eggs.

If a Peking Opera performance is included in the travel plan, go to Guang De Lou and book a ticket for the night (open: 7:30pm on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 30 yuan per person).

Then get out and search old quadrangles and residences in the Da Shi La backstreets to kill the afternoon.

Chinawide

On Edge of World

By Feng Xiaoyuan

Sanya (三亚) is a busy port and tourist resort on the southern tip of Hainan Island. The town lies on a peninsula parallel to the coast and is connected to the mainland on one side by two bridges.

The harbor area is protected to the southeast by the hilly Lu Hui Tou (鹿回头) Peninsula. On the western outskirts of Sanya, there's a community of around 5,000 Hui, the only Muslim inhabitants of Hainan.

The Hui are traditionally considered shy, although your most direct contact with them, via the packs of Hui map-sellers clawing at you on the beaches, will probably put pay to that notion.

For the most part, Sanya is a bore, and there is little to stop you from grabbing a towel and jump-

ing on to a beach-bound bus.

However, if northern air pollutes your nose and lungs, this southern city will offer you a chance to recover.

Lu Hui Tou (literally 'deer looking back') Peninsula

As one of the beaches in Sanya, the peninsula lies 5 kilometers south of the city. A deer-shaped peak extending towards the sea gives the beach its name.

A park has been built at the site and a 12-meter stone statue erected in a shape of a deer. A climb up to the top offers a panoramic view of Sanya city.

Tian Ya Hai Jiao — Remotest Cape of the Earth

Tian Ya Hai Jiao (天涯海角) means the end of the sky and the corner of the sea. Located at the southwest seaside of Sanya city, the overall plan of the scenic

spot includes a land area of 10.4 square kilometers and a sea area of 6 square kilometers. Roaming in Tian Ya Hai Jiao offers amazing coastal scenery. Is there a sea beyond the sea and a sky beyond the sky?

Ya Long Wan (亚龙湾)

To the east of the city, the beach stretches for seven kilometers. Excellent views are obtained here. A holiday resort has been built including a bathing place, Center Square and Butterfly Valley. It has become a hot-pursuit place for tourists both in summer and in winter.

A museum, with a large collection of seashells on the Center Square is worth visiting. Fancy shells and tourist souvenirs are the best gifts for family and friends.

Another place that should not be missed is Butterfly Valley where a variety of species are preserved.



Photos by Feng Xiaoyuan